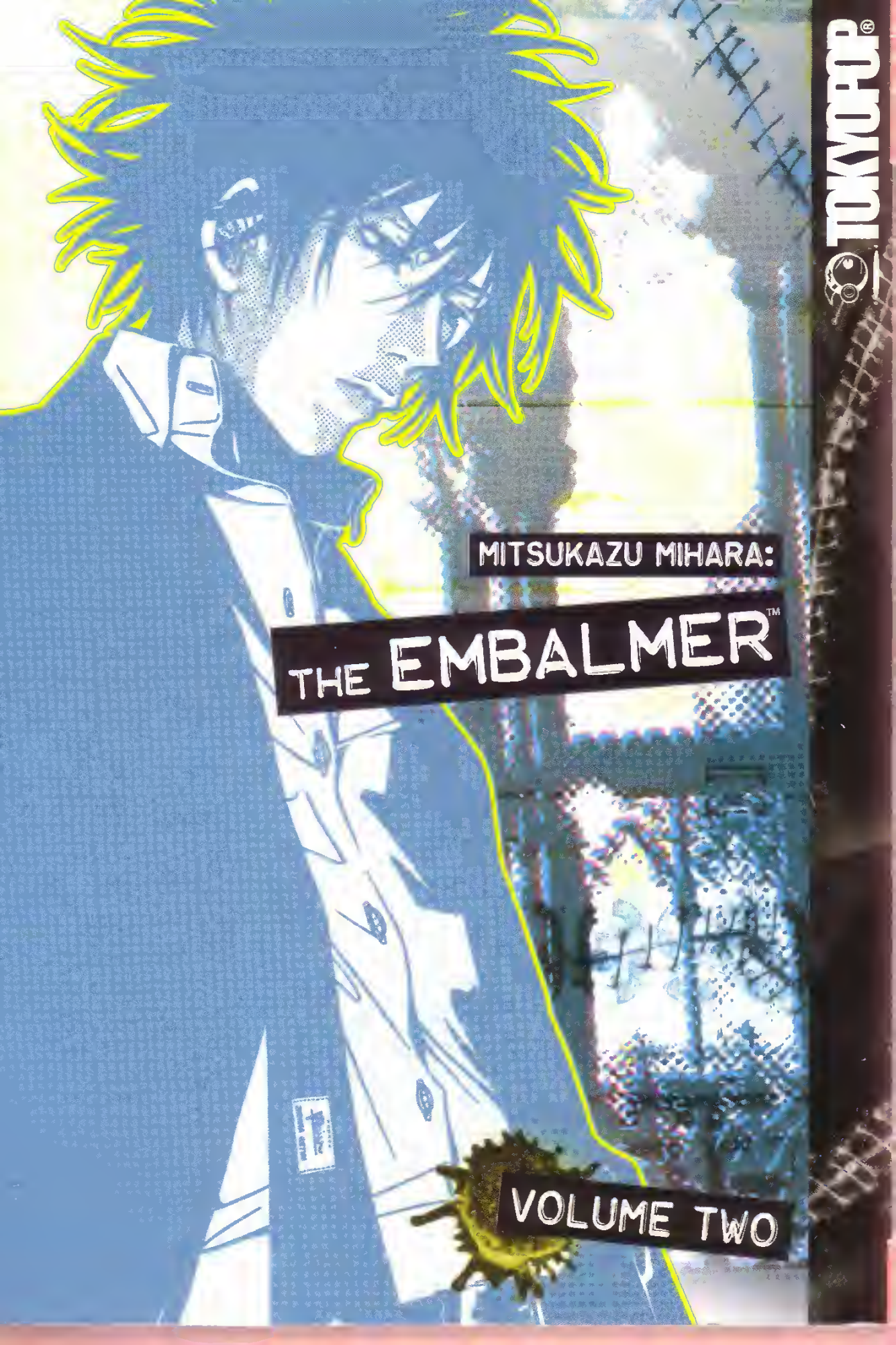

TOKYOPOP
MITSUKAZU MIHARA:
THE EMBALMER™
VOLUME TWO

THE EMBALMER

Vol. 2

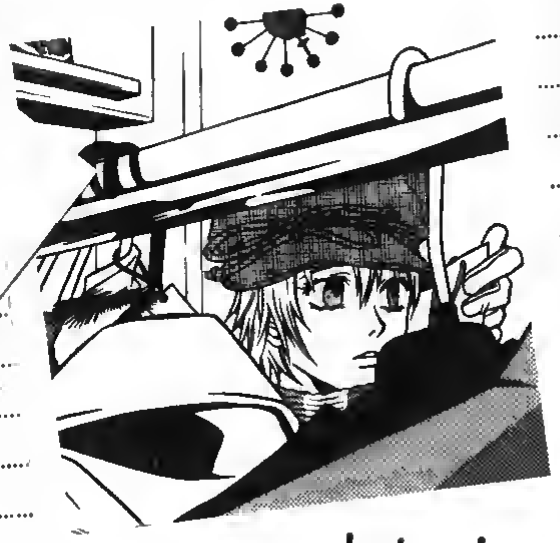
by Mitsukazu Mihara

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Shinjyurou Mamiya

Shinjyurou Mamiya is an embalmer—a rarity in Japan, and something that does not come without its share of misconceptions. He lives in a former church that's rented to him by the family of Azuki Natsui, a strong-willed young woman who has befriended the embalmer.



Azuki Natsui

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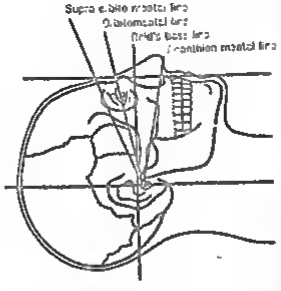
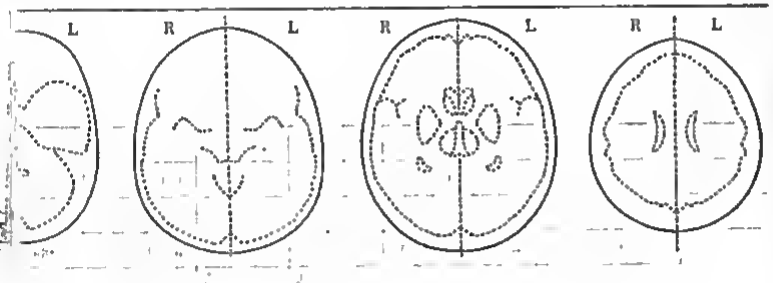




エンバーミング [embalming]

It is said that one can acknowledge death and begin healing by viewing the corpse of a deceased loved one.

This is called "the psychology of grief," and it has been proven by numerous studies.

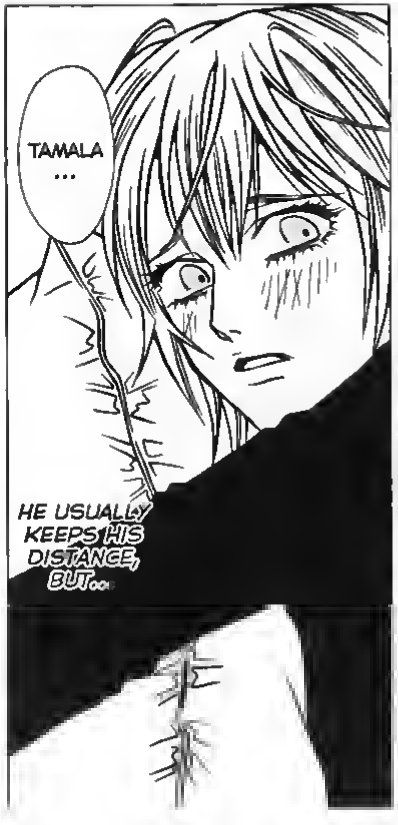
Thus, embalming can be seen as a way of caring for the family, as well as the deceased.

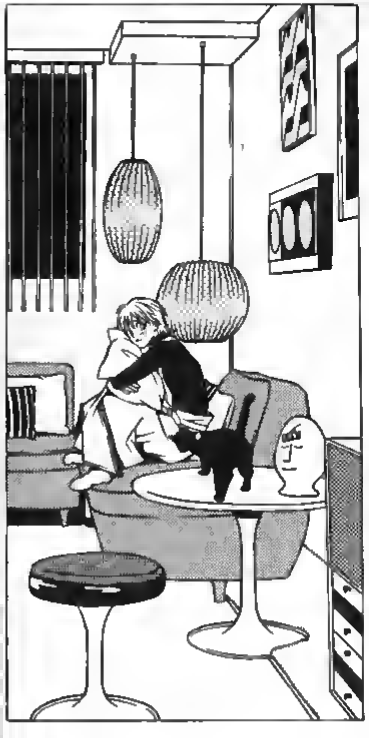
HUH?
DIDN'T GRANDPA EVER TELL YOU?
I DON'T THINK SO.
IT'S GENETICS OR SOMETHING. ONCE IN AWHILE PEOPLE THERE ARE BORN WITH GREEN EYES!
DID YOU KNOW? MR. SHINJYUROU'S FROM THE COUNTRY.
Y'all eat rice now, ya hear?
HE LIED TO ME... AGAIN!
I BELIEVE SHINJYUROU'S FATHER WAS AMERICAN.

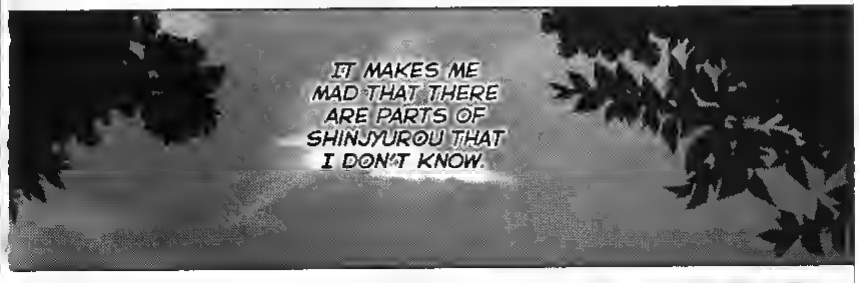
Doraemon is a well known robot cat from manga/anime that doesn't have fur or ears!! And he's not bald!

NOT THESE.
I KNOW, BUT...
HEY, AZUKI, I'M HUNGRY.
SO?!

YAWN...
YOUR LETTERS AND NEWSPAPERS ARE ALL MIXED UP!
YOU KNOW, SHINJYUROU, IF IT WASN'T FOR ME CLEANING, YOU'D BE LIVING IN GARBAGE!
HMM ...?



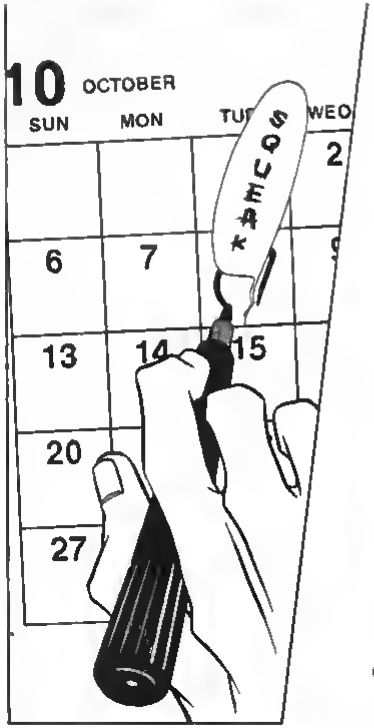




がじがじ
IF HE NEEDS A MAID THEN HE SHOULD JUST HIRE SOMEONE! LIKE ETSUKO ICHIHARA!
AND HE ACTS LIKE I'M SUPPOSED TO CLEAN UP AFTER HIM!

Etsuko Ichihara is a Japanese actress that starred in the series "The Maid and Waitress."

I'M HOME!

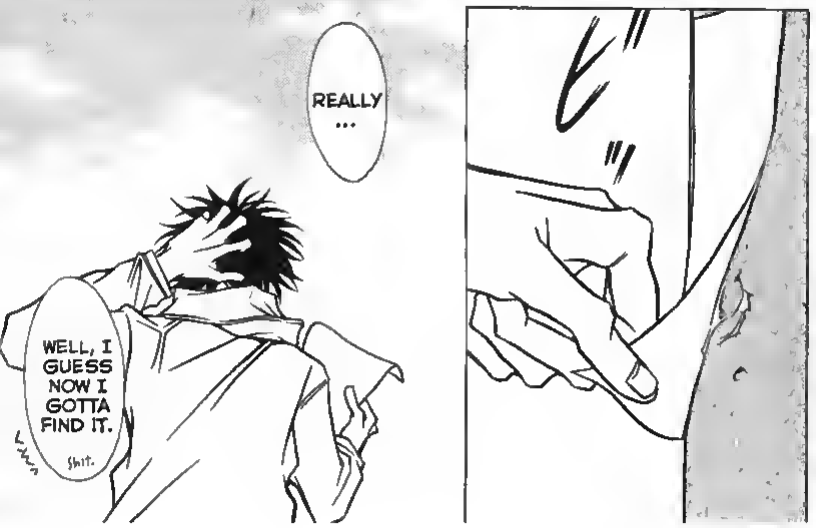

10 OCTOBER
SUN
MON
TUE
WED
2
6
7
13
14
15
20
27
SQUEAK

...THANK YOU.
...WHEN I'M FEELING BAD HE'S ALWAYS THERE BEFORE I KNOW IT.

n meet you.
looking forward to it.
Sincerely,
Akane Ikegami

TAMALA!
HE'S PROBABLY LOST AND ALONE.
LOST CAT
Descri male, black, no collar, bald spot on the back of the neck.

WHAT?!
HE SNUCK OUT WHEN I TOOK OUT THE GARBAGE.
TAMA GOT OUT.
HMM?
AZUKI!
HAVE YOU SEEN TAMA?
I'LL GO LOOK!
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?!
HE HASN'T BEEN OUTSIDE SINCE I FOUND HIM.
TAMA!
TAMALA!


REALLY ...
WELL, I GUESS NOW I GOTTA FIND IT.
Shit.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS? I'LL BET THIS IS LIKE IN THAT MOVIE *PET SEMATARY*. YOU KNOW. WHEN PETS RUN OFF TO THE CEMETERY TO DIE?
THERE'S KITTY CORPSES EVERYWHERE THERE...
Black ones, white ones, tabbies a—

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
Hmm.
A LOST CAT?
SHIN-JYUROU...

70
ち

HIS EYES ARE A PRETTY GREEN, AREN'T THEY?
LIKE SHINJYUROU'S.
POOR THING. HIS OWNERS ABANDONED HIM.
PETS WEREN'T ALLOWED WHERE THEY WERE MOVING.
HE THINKS THAT IF HE STAYS HERE, THEY'LL COME BACK.
I WENT THE LONG WAY HOME JUST TO SEE HIM. THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME MADE ME SO HAPPY.
THAT CAT?
HE'S LOSING WEIGHT LATELY, ISN'T HE? I WONDER IF HE'S SICK.

WHAT THE HELL? HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY IDEA HOW I FEEL!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH, THERE'S THAT BALD CAT AGAIN.
I WONDER IF HE LIVES IN THIS HOUSE.
BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A COLLAR...
Want my tuna sandwich?

WHAT'S THAT?
OH, JUST SOME EMERGENCY RATIONS.
HMM?
OH...
I'M SICK OF WALKING ...
EEK!
EWW! GROSS!
!

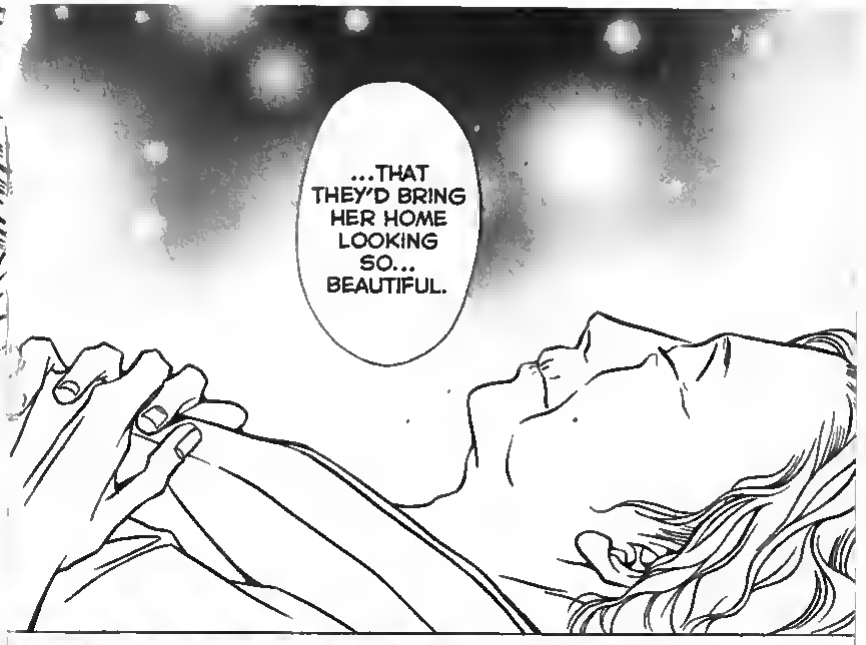
WANNA COME HOME WITH ME?
LITTLE KITTY SHINJYU-ROU...
HEY...
IT'S COLD. LET'S GET A HOTEL ROOM.

UM, I...
I'M SORRY, DID I INTERRUPT YOU?
DING!
DONG!
NO! HE'S NOT–
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT HIM. SAY GOODBYE...
...SO YOU WON'T REGRET IT LATER.
NO.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
...MS. AKANE IKEGAMI?
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS, HASN'T IT...
Y-YOU'RE WRONG! IT'S NOT TAMALA!
!
WE FOUND HIM THE NEXT DISTRICT OVER.
IN FRONT OF A HOUSE WITH A BLUE ROOF, NEAR THE LIBRARY...
NO...

WHEN MY FATHER PASSED AWAY AND SHE BEGAN TO GET SENILE, WE TOOK HER IN.
MAYBE LIVING IN A STRANGE CITY AND MY FATHER'S DEATH WERE JUST TOO MUCH FOR HER.
HER WANDERINGS GOT WORSE AND FINALLY...
...WE HAD TO FILE A MISSING PERSONS REPORT.
AT LAST THE POLICE CONTACTED US.
THEY SAID MOTHER HAD FALLEN FROM A CLIFF AND DIED MONTHS BEFORE.
I EXPECTED THEY'D RETURN ONLY HER ASHES, BUT...
...I NEVER DREAMED ...

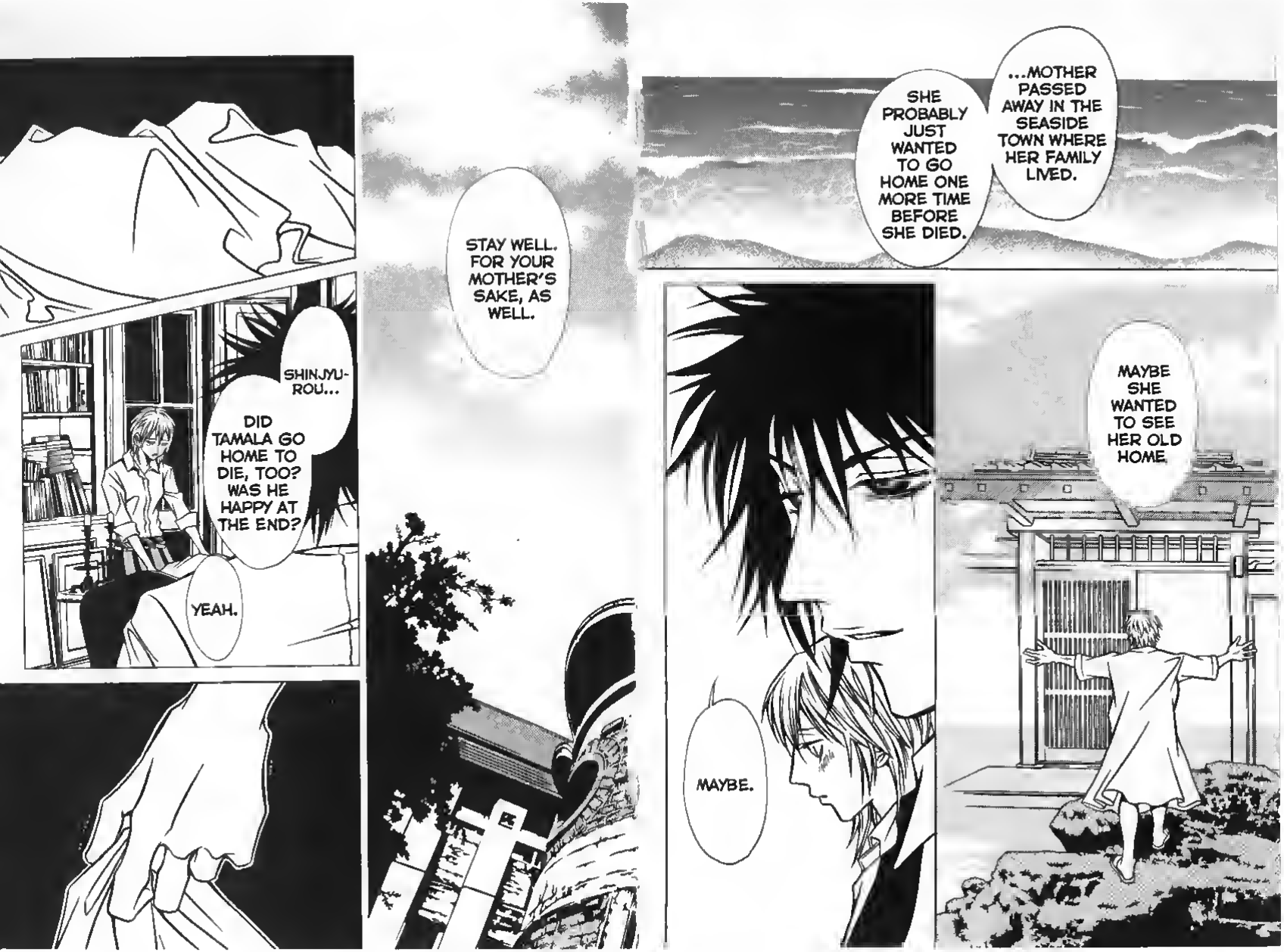
YOU, TOO... IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
I'M STILL SO GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR MY MOTHER.
I...
I'M GOING HOME-
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE DOING WELL.
...AND SHE ALWAYS LIVED BY THE SEA, EVEN AFTER SHE MARRIED.
MY MOTHER WAS BORN IN A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE...

IF MOTHER HAD RETURNED IN AN URN... I THINK WE'D HAVE NEVER FOUND CLOSURE.
I WANTED TO PROPERLY THANK YOU.
SEEING HER AGAIN, TOUCHING HER, AND CRYING OUR HEARTS OUT... WELL, WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE.
YOU KNOW...
...YOUR WORDS ARE THE BEST REWARD ONE COULD HOPE FOR.
EMBALMERS DON'T OFTEN GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO THE FAMILY, SO...
.....


...THAT THEY'D BRING HER HOME LOOKING SO... BEAUTIFUL.

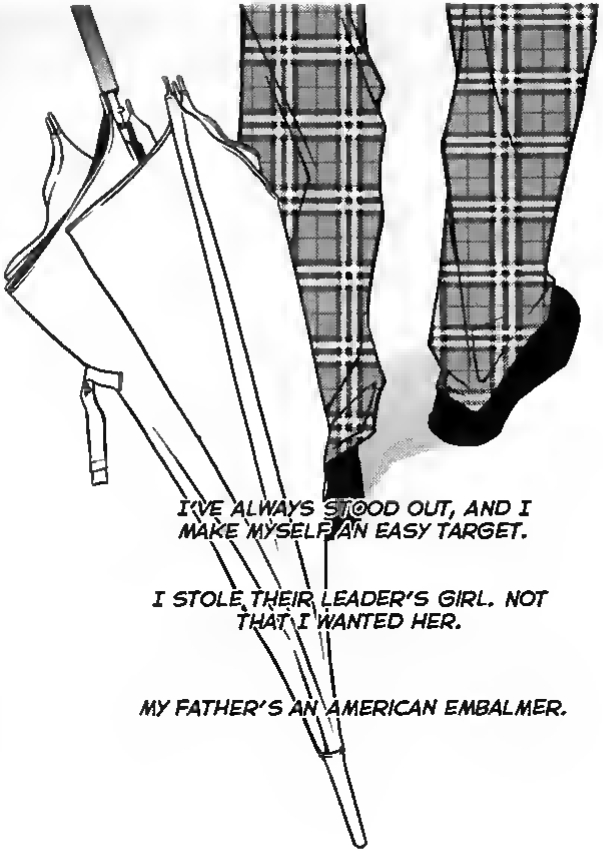
I HEARD THEY RESTORED SOME PRETTY SERIOUS INJURIES.
IT MADE ME HAPPY TO SEE PEOPLE TOUCH HER FACE AT THE FUNERAL.

SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE UNIVERSITY AS AN UNIDENTIFIED BODY.
I JUST HAPPENED TO EMBALM HER.
I KNOW.


SHINJYU-ROU...
DID TAMALA GO HOME TO DIE, TOO? WAS HE HAPPY AT THE END?
YEAH.
STAY WELL. FOR YOUR MOTHER'S SAKE, AS WELL.
...MOTHER PASSED AWAY IN THE SEASIDE TOWN WHERE HER FAMILY LIVED.
SHE PROBABLY JUST WANTED TO GO HOME ONE MORE TIME BEFORE SHE DIED.
MAYBE.
MAYBE SHE WANTED TO SEE HER OLD HOME.

OH...
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
I LOOK PATHETIC.
.....

Embalming 6
The Road Home
End



I'VE ALWAYS STOOD OUT, AND I MAKE MYSELF AN EASY TARGET.

I STOLE THEIR LEADER'S GIRL. NOT THAT I WANTED HER.

MY FATHER'S AN AMERICAN EMBALMER.

WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS ALWAYS GETTING BEAT UP FOR STUPID THINGS.

NAH, IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S BEST TO JUST GO WITH THE FLOW.
YOU KISS YOUR MOM WITH THAT MOUTH?
DID TAKEMOTO AND HIS GANG OF CRETINS DO THIS TO YOU AGAIN? YOU KNOW I'M DATING A SENIOR. WANT ME TO HAVE HIM BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF THEM?
...DON'T GET INVOLVED, OKAY? IT'S A PAIN.
THIS IS HOW THINGS ARE, SO...
MAMIYA!
CLANK! CLANK! CLINK!
CLANK! CLANK!
BANG!

NOTE B-29's were used during World War II

THANKS.
WHAT A WEIRDO.
I'M WEARING A SCHOOL UNIFORM... DUH.

YOU SMELL LIKE DEATH, SO I FIGURED WE WERE THE SAME.

カラオケ
HEY ...
GOTTA LIGHT?
HEY!
LADY, I'M IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOU KNOW?
OH REALLY?

MY FATHER'S JOB IS TO EMBALM FOREIGNERS WHO DIE IN JAPAN, AND THEN SEND THEM BACK TO THEIR COUNTRIES.

I TOLD YOU. IT'S FROM KENDO CLASS. HERE, TAKE YOUR MEDICINE.
HEY... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE, SHIN?
AT WORK. AT THE EMBASSY.

HE PICKS A STRANGER'S CORPSE OVER HIS SICK WIFE...

LIKE I CARE.
THE TECHNIQUE STARTED DURING THE CIVIL WAR WHEN THEY HAD TO TRANSPORT THE SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION BACK HOME.

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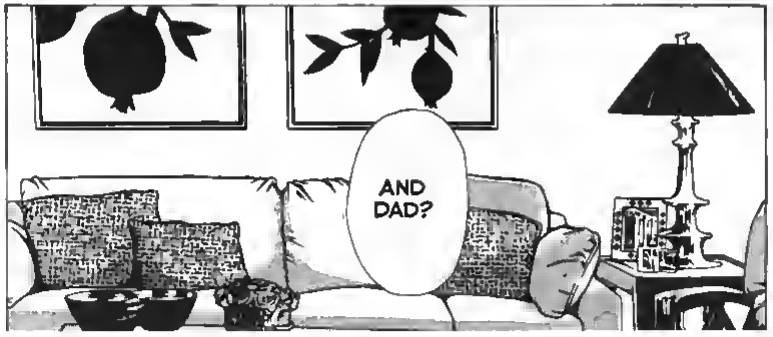
THAT WAS HOW WE MET.

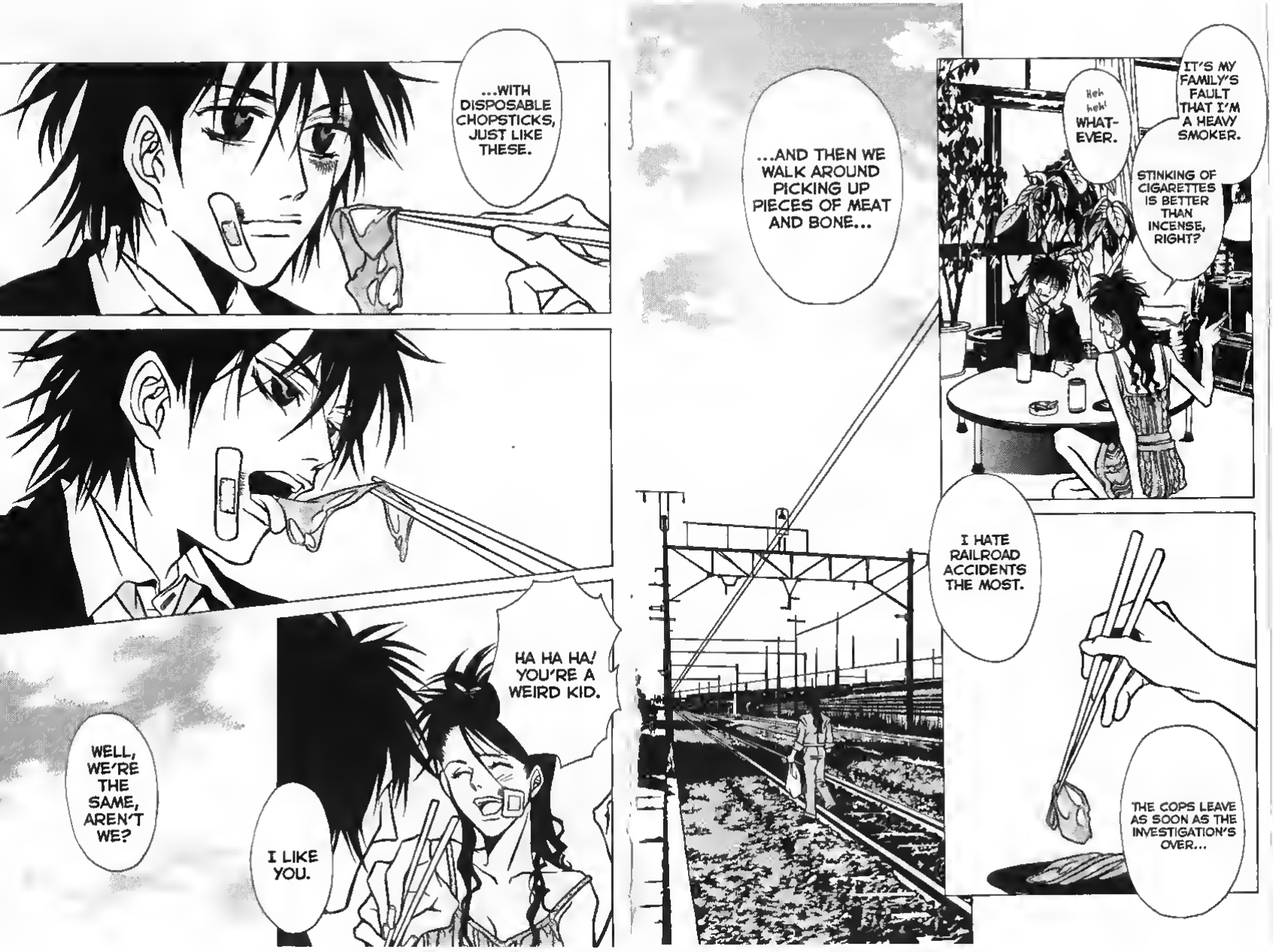

AND DAD?

OH.
WE MEET AGAIN.
WE MATCH TODAY, HUH?
COME IN.
IT'S A BIT MESSY.

YOU SMELL LIKE DEATH.
CAN YOU TELL?
She must be easy
Of course not!

.....
HEH HEH... YOU MAD?
DON'T BE. IT'S TRUE THAT I RECOGNIZED THE SMELL.
MY PARENTS ARE UNDERTAKERS.
THIS IS FROM A FIGHT I HAD WITH MY DAD ABOUT NOT TAKING OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
EVEN US GIRLS HAVE TO HELP CARRY THE COFFINS WHEN THERE'S NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE.

WHAT?
WE'RE THE SAME?
HAVE A SEAT. IT'S NOT LIKE I BITE OR ANYTHING.
WANNA BEER?
AH.
THE SMELL OF DEATH?
WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE?
THAT WAS A JOKE.
AROUND HERE, EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU. I WAS TEASING.
FIZZ


...WITH DISPOSABLE CHOPSTICKS, JUST LIKE THESE.
HA HA HA! YOU'RE A WEIRD KID.
I LIKE YOU.
WELL, WE'RE THE SAME, AREN'T WE?
...AND THEN WE WALK AROUND PICKING UP PIECES OF MEAT AND BONE...
Heh heh! WHATEVER.
IT'S MY FAMILY'S FAULT THAT I'M A HEAVY SMOKER.
STINKING OF CIGARETTES IS BETTER THAN INCENSE, RIGHT?
I HATE RAILROAD ACCIDENTS THE MOST.
THE COPS LEAVE AS SOON AS THE INVESTIGATION'S OVER...

IT FELT LIKE I BELONGED THERE. NOT AT SCHOOL, NOT AT HOME, BUT THERE.
WAS IT BECAUSE IT WAS EASY?
OR WAS IT THE "SMELL" AFTER ALL?
HEY, DID YOU KNOW? THEY DON'T HAVE CHIMNEYS AT THE NEW CREMATORIUMS.
THEY SAY THEY DON'T NEED TO 'CUZ THE SMOKE BURNS, TOO. THEY HAVE FISH ROASTERS LIKE THAT TOO, DON'T THEY? DNES THAT DON'T SMOKE.
BUT I LIKE IT, YOU KNOW? HOW THE SMOKE DRIFTS UP INTO THE SKY...
IT'S LIKE A LITTLE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN.
.....
YEAH. I LIKE IT, TOO.
HEY...
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING I SAY, YOU KNOW.

YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES LATELY.
OH, I FELL. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'LL BE CAREFUL.
YOUR GRADES ARE GOOD ENOUGH, BUT WITH THESE RECORDS ...
AND MAMIYA... THOSE INJURIES...
GOSH!

RIIIIING!
RIIIIING!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RIGHT NOW?
MY FACE? YEAH, IT'S BETTER.
HELLO? YES.
SORRY ...
...BUT PAPA CALLS.

ガシャーン
EEEEEEEEK!!
WAIT! I... MAMIYA! HEY!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE? YOU'RE A PAIN.
OH!
THERE YOU ARE!
HE WANTED TO HEAR A CONVINCING LIE THAT'S ALL
YOU KNOW WHY!
HEY, THERE'S A RUMOR THAT YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH A WEIRD LADY.
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
THAT WOMAN'S A CALL GIRL! SHE'LL SLEEP WITH ANYONE, YOU KNOW!
SO YOU FINALLY CAME TO SCHOOL, EH?
HERE. HANDOUTS AND THE STUFF THE TEST WILL COVER.
THANKS, BUT...WHY DON'T YOU DO THIS STUFF FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND INSTEAD?

YOU MAMIYA?
HEY.

YOU GOT A LOT OF FUCKIN' NERVE. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
SO YOU DID IT WITH AYUMI?

.....
WHY DO YOU ASK?

WHAT HAPPENED?
GOD, IT'S REALLY BAD TODAY. THEY WOULDN'T EVEN PUT YOU IN A COFFIN LOOKING LIKE THAT!
HA HA ...
YOU SON OF A BITCH! QUIT LAUGHING!
HEY ...
WHEN YOU WALK ALONG THE RAILROAD TRACKS COLLECTING BITS OF FLESH...
CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A ROCK THAT LOOKS LIKE A BONE AND A BONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A ROCK?

I...
YOU KNOW, I'M HIDING SOMETHING FROM YOU...
DING DONG!

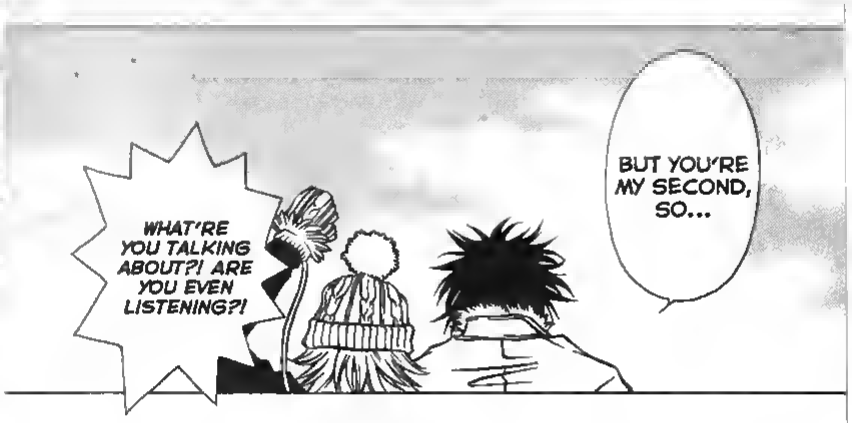
STOP.
WHY?
.....
YOU'RE NOT DIRTY.
I-I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH YOU...WITH MY DIRTY HANDS.

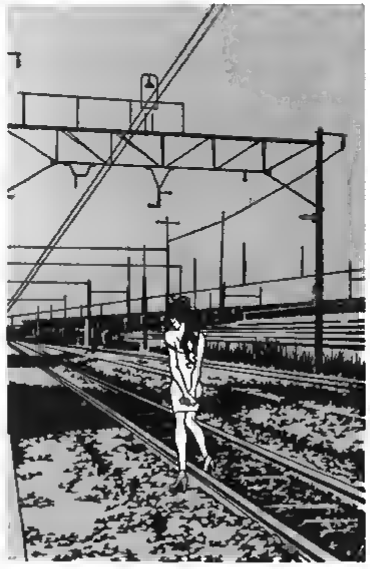
KIND LIES ARE A LOT LIKE EMBALMING.
CLICK
CLICK CLICK WHOOSH
THEY BOTH PAINT OVER THE UGLINESS OF REALITY, MAKING IT INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.
"YEAH, HE JUST FELL. THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT."
"HE SAID IT'S FROM [illegible] CLASS."

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT AN UNDERTAKER'S DAUGHTER.
I'M SORRY I LIED TO YOU.
I'M REALLY...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOODBYE, SHIN.
"PAPA'S" COME TO GET ME.
I'M REALLY A COP'S DAUGHTER.

IT WAS YEARS LATER WHEN I REALIZED SHE WAS MY FIRST LOVE.

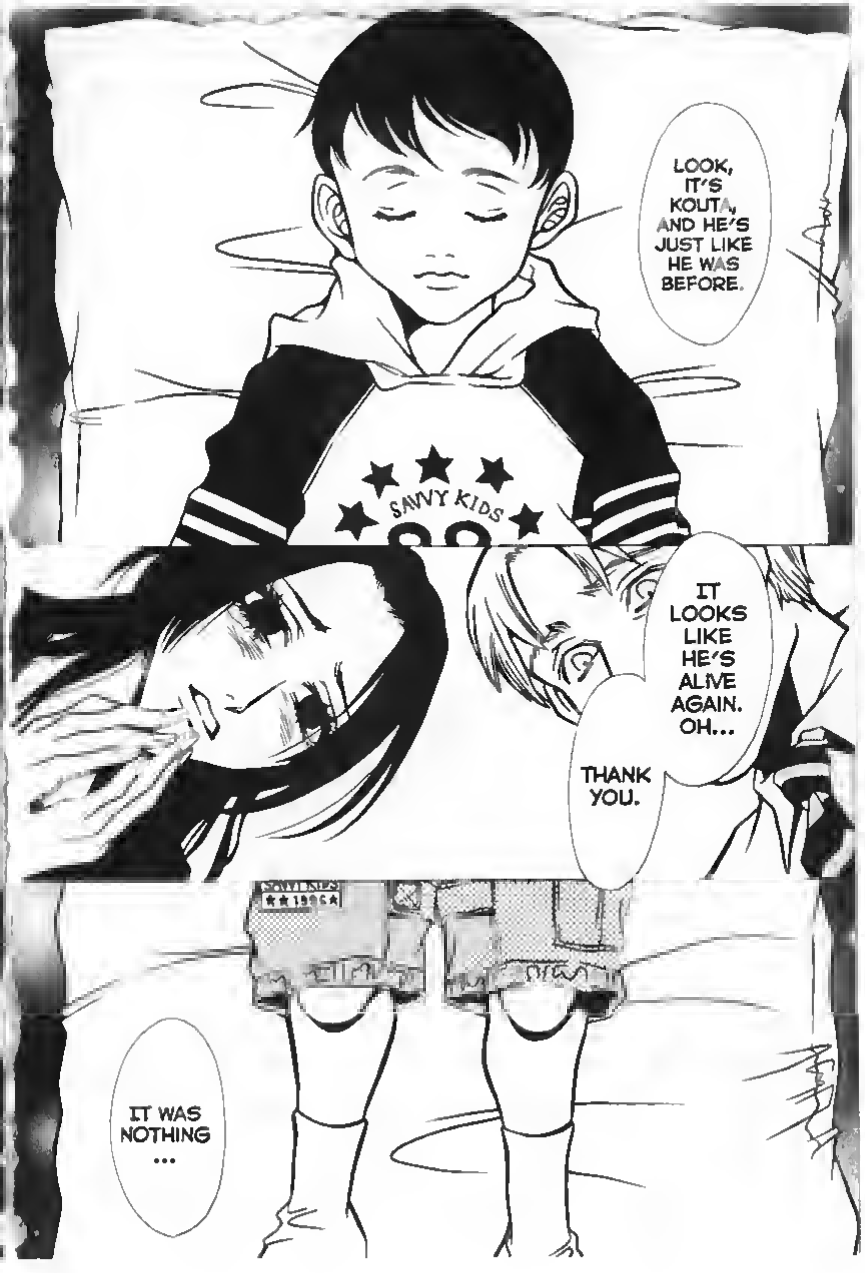
THEY SAY FIRST LOVES NEVER BLOOM, BUT...
PICKING UP BONES.
WELL, I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I'M GOING TO FUMIGATE YOUR ROOM TODAY.
GET RID OF ALL THOSE ROACHES. SO DON'T BRING HER HOME, UNLESS SHE LIKES GAGGING ON BUG SPRAY.
OH, COME ON! I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT!
YOU'RE HERE TO MEET SOME LADY, AREN'T YOU?
HUH?

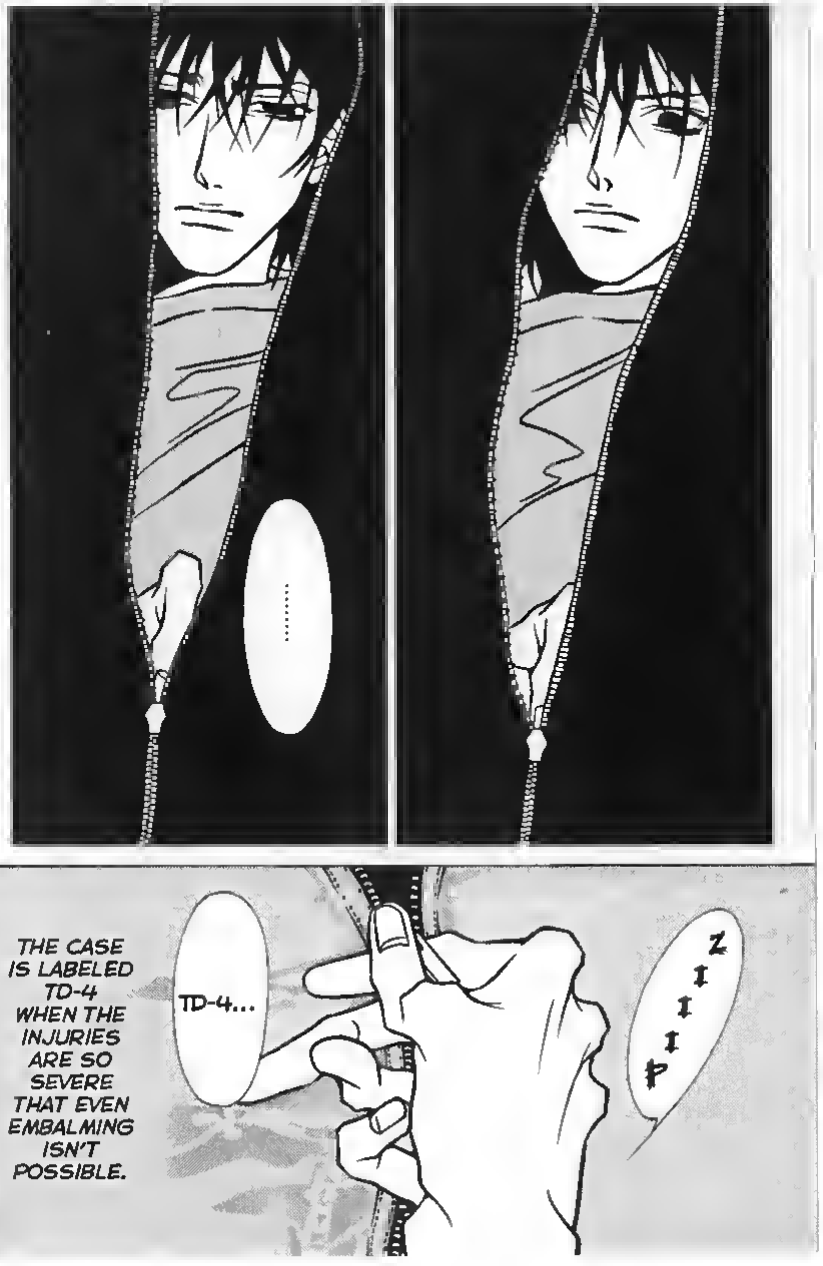




Embalming 7
Liars
End

...BUT YOU'RE WELCOME.
PEOPLE ALWAYS WANT TO BREAK THE TABOO AND OPEN THE BOX.
TWO YEARS OLD? JESUS.
BOY. TWO YEARS OLD.
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS RESPIRATORY TRACT BURNS CAUSED BY SMOKE INHALATION.


LOOK, IT'S KOUTA, AND HE'S JUST LIKE HE WAS BEFORE.
SAVVY KIDS
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALIVE AGAIN. OH...
THANK YOU.
IT WAS NOTHING ...

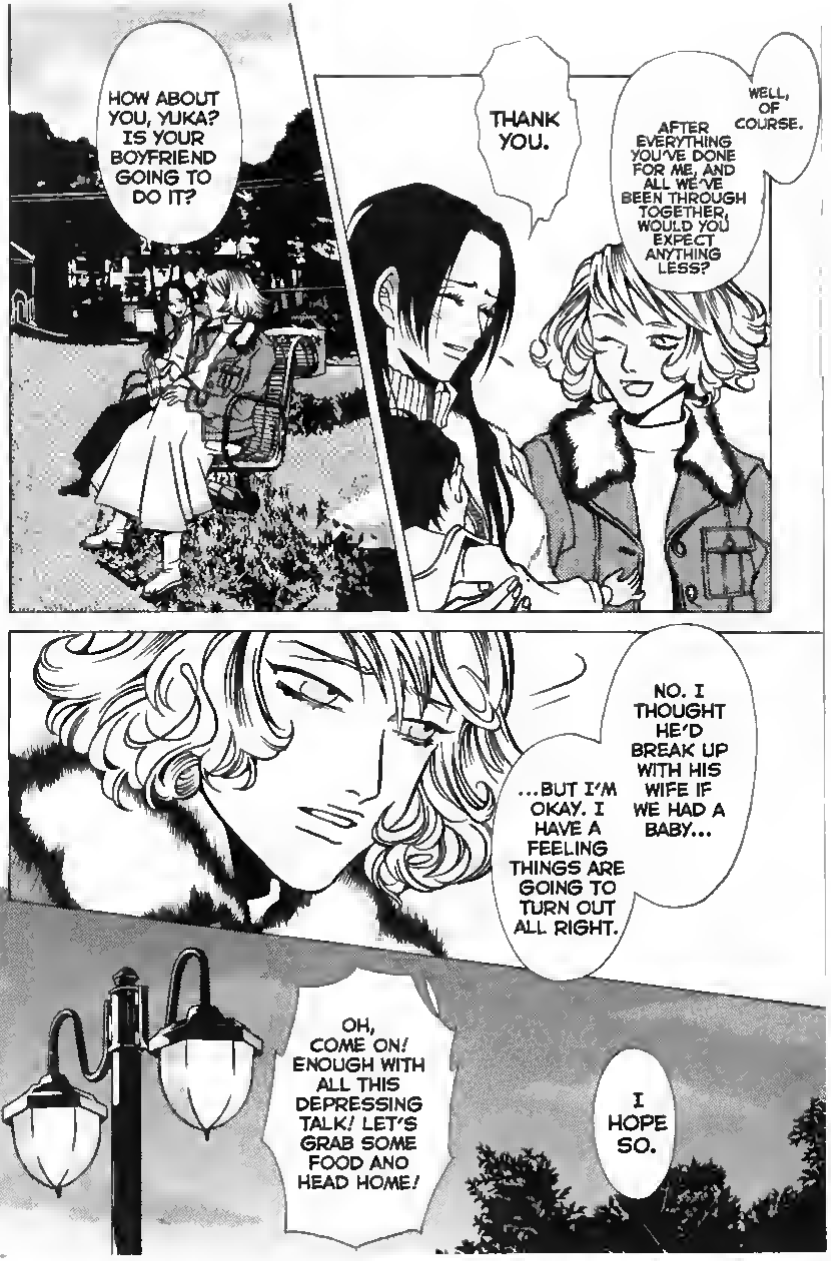

.....
THE CASE IS LABELED TD-4 WHEN THE INJURIES ARE SO SEVERE THAT EVEN EMBALMING ISN'T POSSIBLE.
TD-4...
フ ー ー ー

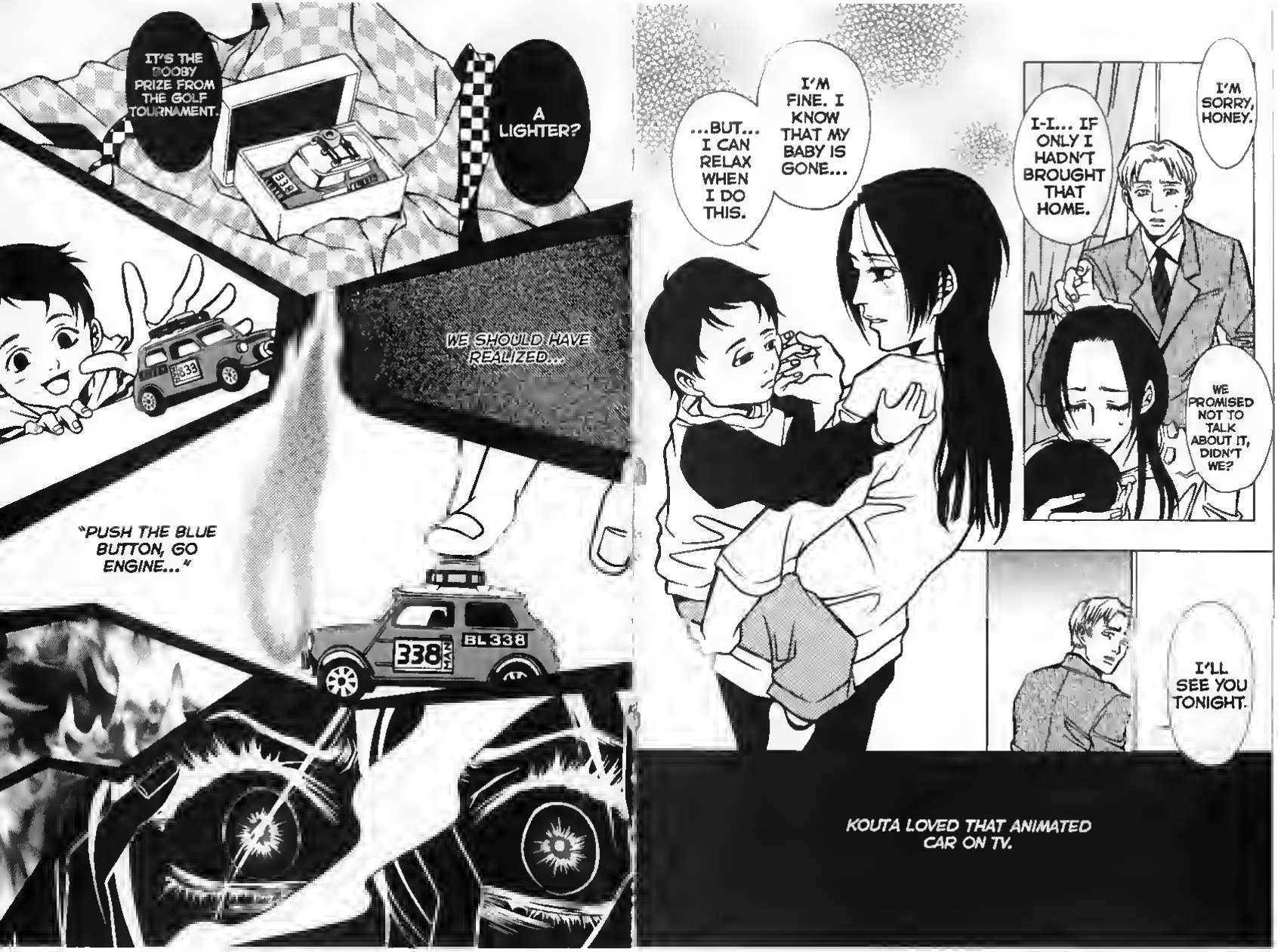
PEOPLE DON'T NEED ANYTHING FAKE LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE WRONG. THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO NEED IT, EVEN THOUGH THE PEACE OF MIND IS ONLY AN ILLUSION.
THE BEAUTY EMBALMING CREATES ONLY LASTS UNTIL CREMATION...
...BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KEEP THEIR LOVED ONES BY THEIR SIDE FOREVER.
AFTER ALL, WITH A DOLL, YOUTH AND BEAUTY WILL EXIST FOR ETERNITY.
SEE, LOOK!
NO, NOT LIKE YOU.
I'M A DOLL MAKER.
SAME BUSINESS, EH?
MY NAME'S TSUBAKI.
MY JOB IS TO RESTORE THE DEAD TO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.
OKAY THEN... WHO ARE YOU?
YOU ALWAYS START CONVERSATIONS THAT WAY?!
MOST PEOPLE WOULD WANT TO KNOW WHO I AM BEFORE THEY SEE ME IN MY UNDERWEAR!
WHAT?!
YEAH, SO?
THOSE ARE SOME WEEEEIRD PANTIES.
NOTE: She's wearing monpeki, which are traditional Japanese pants worn for farmwork and by really old farmers.

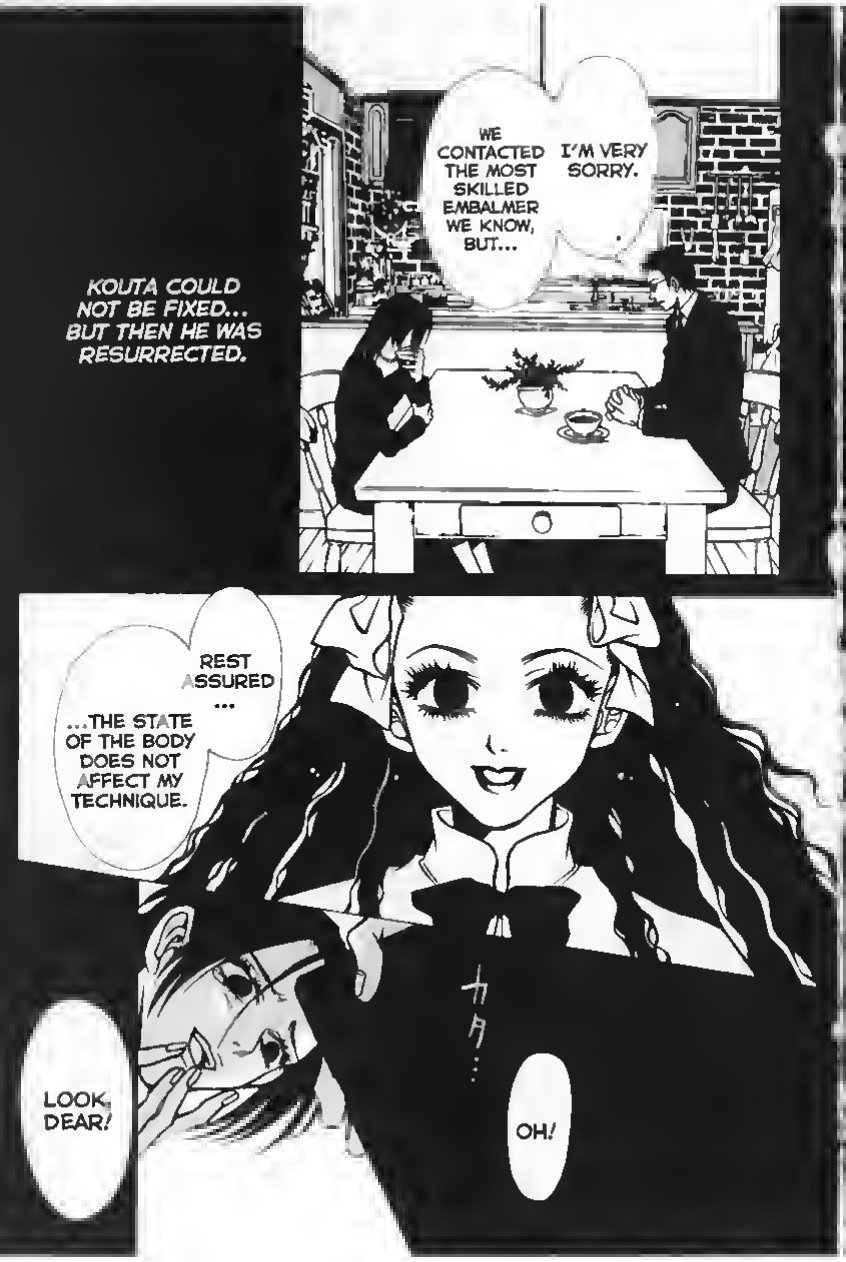
YOSHIE! COME OVER HERE, NOW!
DOESN'T HER HUSBAND SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
UM... I FEEL SORRY FOR HER, BUT IT'S A BIT... UM, YOU KNOW...
NOW, KOUTA ...
SAY HELLO TO YOUR FRIEND.
MISATO, DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.
I KNOW, I'M USED TO IT ALREADY.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
YUKA, YOU'RE SO GOOD TO ME. EVEN DURING THE FUNERAL...

SHE JUST LOST HER TWO-YEAR-OLD SON IN A FATAL ACCIDENT.
SHE'S ONE OF THEM.
CAN YOU STILL CALL THAT FAKE, MR. EMBALMER?
YOU COULDN'T EVEN RESURRECT HIM TEMP-ORARILY, BUT I DID FOR ALL ETERNITY.
Ha ha ha!

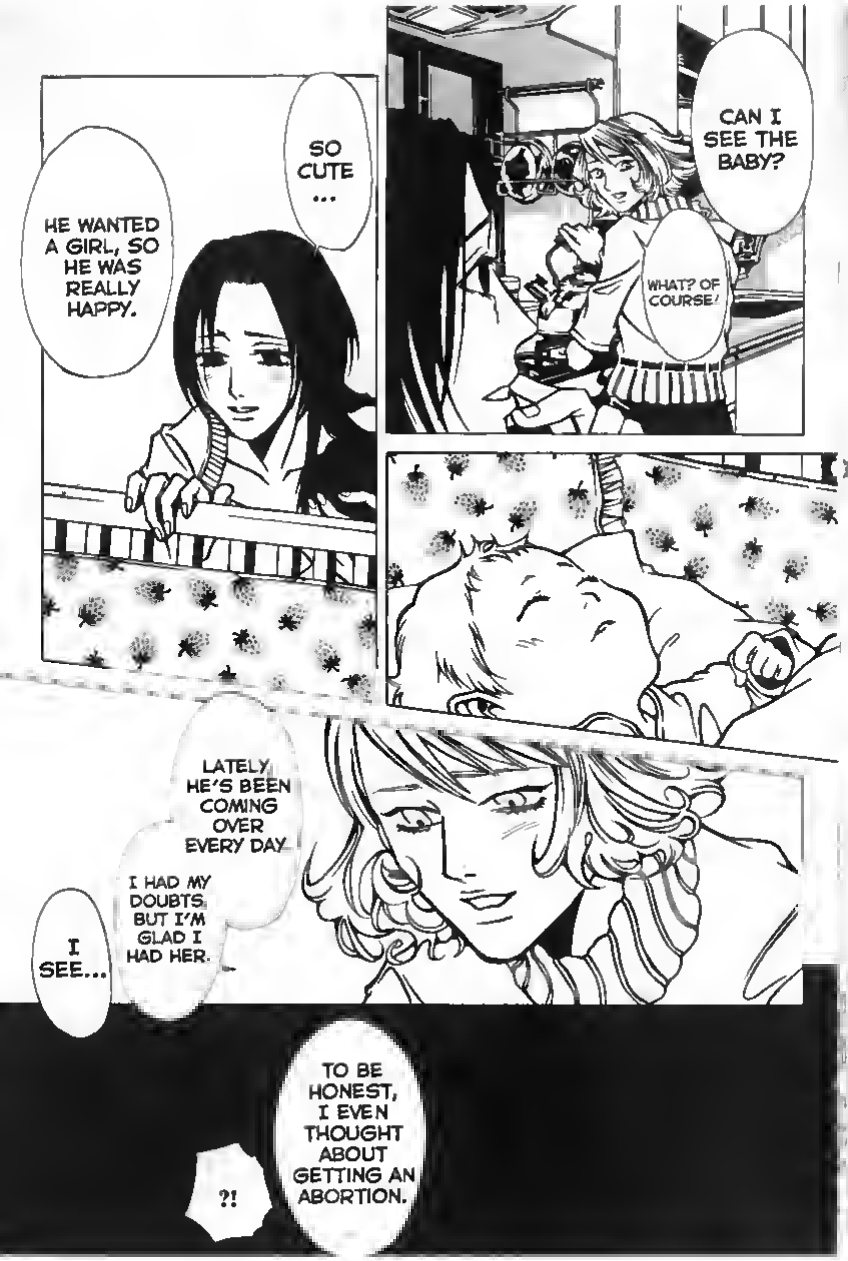
I'M A CAR AND I CAN TALK...
PUSH THE BLUE BUTTON, GO ENGINE...
BUNBUN
MISATO, I HAVE TO WORK LATE TONIGHT. WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE. AFTER ALL, I'M WITH THE BABY.
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, KOUTA! BUNBUN!
MOMMY LIKES THIS SHOW, TOO! IT'S FUN!


HOW ABOUT YOU, YUKA? IS YOUR BOYFRIEND GOING TO DO IT?
THANK YOU.
WELL, OF COURSE. AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME, AND ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER, WOULD YOU EXPECT ANYTHING LESS?
NO. I THOUGHT HE'D BREAK UP WITH HIS WIFE IF WE HAD A BABY...
...BUT I'M OKAY. I HAVE A FEELING THINGS ARE GOING TO TURN OUT ALL RIGHT.
OH, COME ON! ENOUGH WITH ALL THIS DEPRESSING TALK! LET'S GRAB SOME FOOD ANO HEAD HOME!
I HOPE SO.


IT'S THE DOOBY PRIZE FROM THE GOLF TOURNAMENT.
A LIGHTER?
WE SHOULD HAVE REALIZED...
"PUSH THE BLUE BUTTON, GO ENGINE..."
338
BL 338
...BUT... I CAN RELAX WHEN I DO THIS.
I'M FINE. I KNOW THAT MY BABY IS GONE...
I-I... IF ONLY I HADN'T BROUGHT THAT HOME.
I'M SORRY, HONEY.
WE PROMISED NOT TO TALK ABOUT IT, DIDN'T WE?
I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT.
KOUTA LOVED THAT ANIMATED CAR ON TV.


KOUTA COULD NOT BE FIXED... BUT THEN HE WAS RESURRECTED.
WE CONTACTED THE MOST SKILLED EMBALMER WE KNOW, BUT...
I'M VERY SORRY.
REST ASSURED ...
...THE STATE OF THE BODY DOES NOT AFFECT MY TECHNIQUE.
LOOK, DEAR!
カタ...
OH!

I'M AN UNFIT MOTHER.
TO LEAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITHIN HIS REACH...
IT'S THE MOST ACCIDENT PRONE AGE...

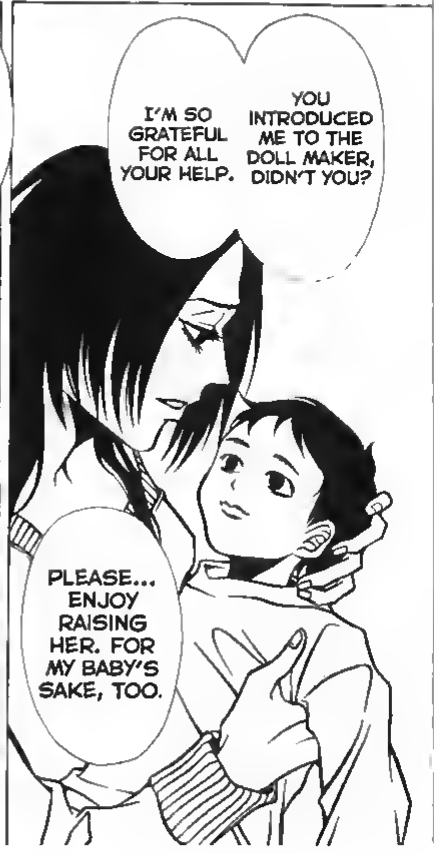

CAN I SEE THE BABY?
WHAT? OF COURSE!
SO CUTE ...
HE WANTED A GIRL, SO HE WAS REALLY HAPPY.
LATELY HE'S BEEN COMING OVER EVERY DAY
I HAD MY DOUBTS, BUT I'M GLAD I HAD HER.
I SEE...
TO BE HONEST, I EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING AN ABORTION.
?!

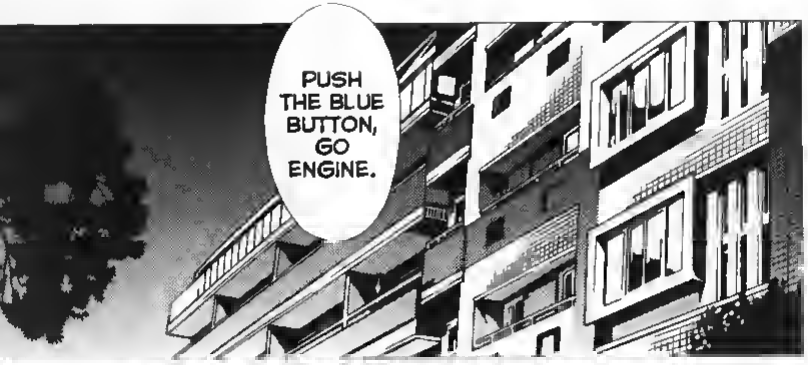
...I COULD HOLD MY CHILD ONCE MORE IN MY ARMS.
EVEN IF IT WAS NOT IN THE FLESH...
HI! COME IN!
YES.
WAAAAH!
AND HELLO TO YOU, TOO, KOUTA!
IS TEA OKAY?

OH... THIS BABY HAS BEAUTIFUL EYES, DOESN'T SHE?
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE TAKES AFTER HER FATHER.
SAY...
THESE EYES... I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE ...
HUH? WHAT?
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

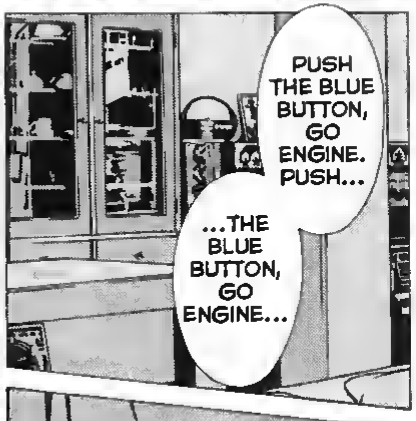
WE WERE HAVING AN AFFAIR AND...
...WELL, I FELT SO BAD FOR YOU, MISATO.
BUT THAT'S--!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! HOW SILLY.

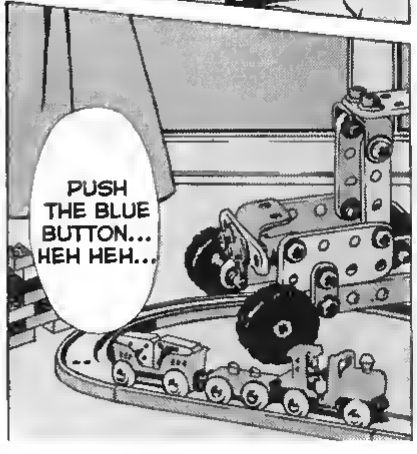
THANK YOU.
A W A A A H !
YOU THIRSTY? HOLD ON A SEC, OKAY?

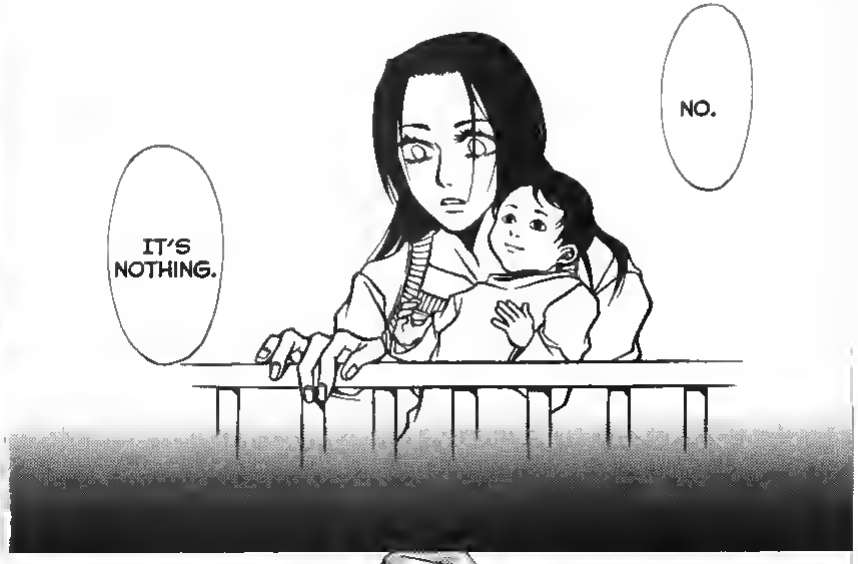

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
YOU INTRODUCED ME TO THE DOLL MAKER, DIDN'T YOU?
PLEASE... ENJOY RAISING HER. FOR MY BABY'S SAKE, TOO.


PUSH THE BLUE BUTTON, GO ENGINE.

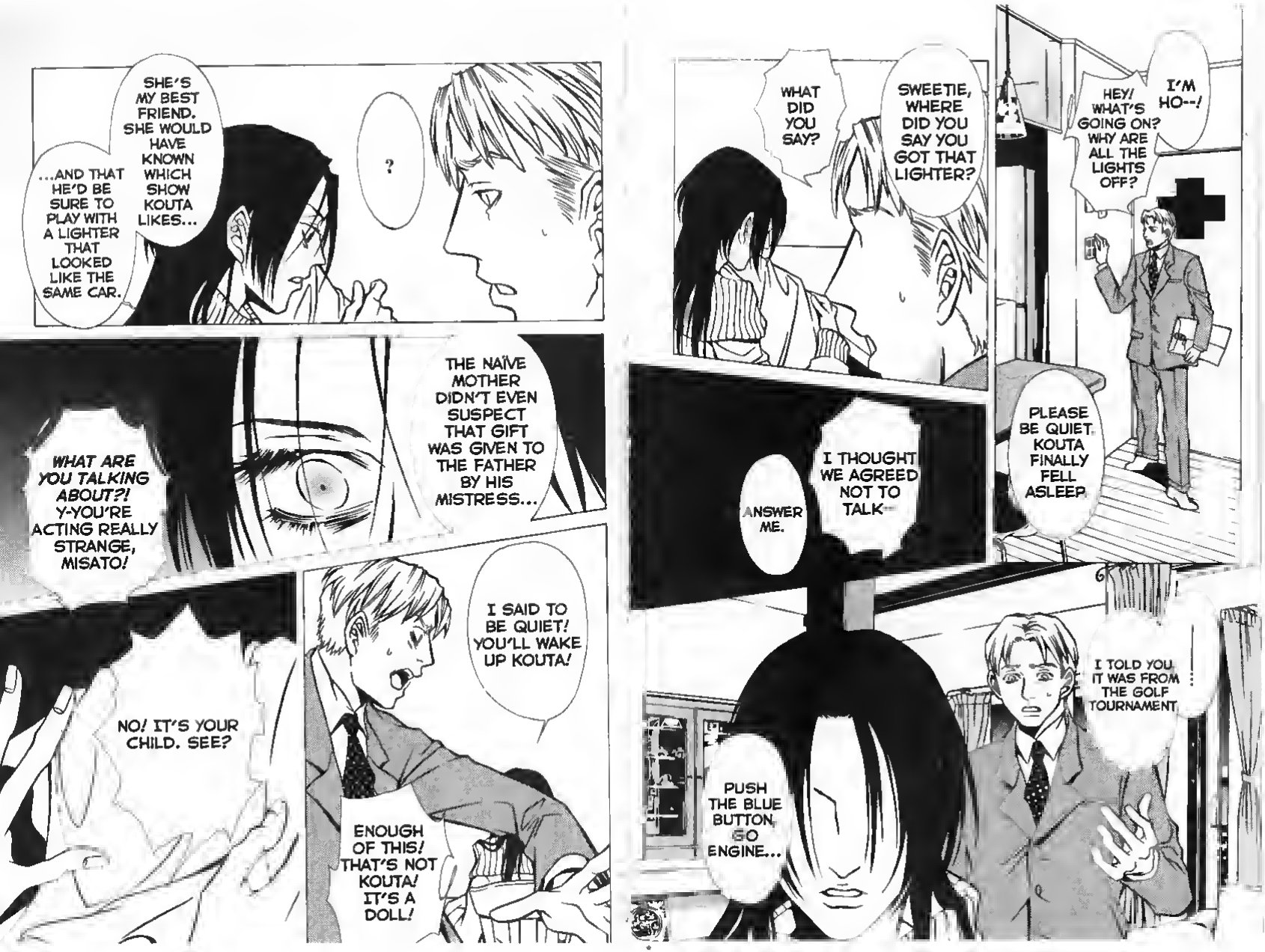
PAPA IS WATE TWOODAY, TWOO, ISN'T HWE?


PUSH THE BLUE BUTTON, GO ENGINE. PUSH...
...THE BLUE BUTTON, GO ENGINE...

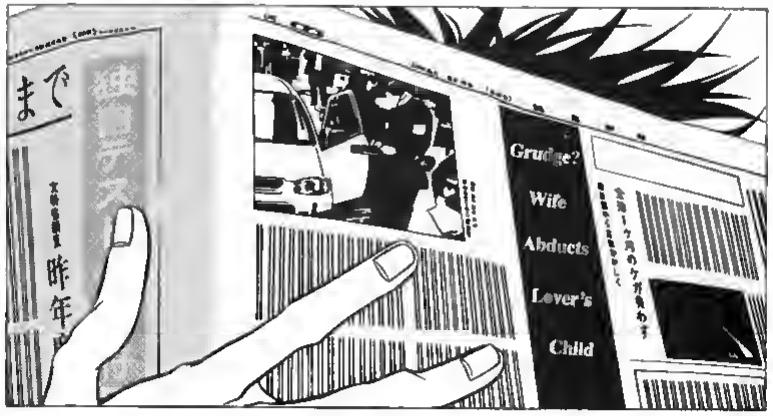

PUSH THE BLUE BUTTON... HEH HEH...


NO.
IT'S NOTHING.

WHY IS THAT WRAPPING PAPER HERE?


SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND. SHE WOULD HAVE KNOWN WHICH SHOW KOUTA LIKES...
...AND THAT HE'D BE SURE TO PLAY WITH A LIGHTER THAT LOOKED LIKE THE SAME CAR.
?
THE NAÏVE MOTHER DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT THAT GIFT WAS GIVEN TO THE FATHER BY HIS MISTRESS...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! Y-YOU'RE ACTING REALLY STRANGE, MISATO!
NO! IT'S YOUR CHILD. SEE?
I SAID TO BE QUIET! YOU'LL WAKE UP KOUTA!
ENOUGH OF THIS! THAT'S NOT KOUTA! IT'S A DOLL!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SWEETIE, WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU GOT THAT LIGHTER?
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE ALL THE LIGHTS OFF?
I'M HO--!
PLEASE BE QUIET. KOUTA FINALLY FELL ASLEEP.
I THOUGHT WE AGREED NOT TO TALK--
ANSWER ME.
I TOLD YOU, IT WAS FROM THE GOLF TOURNAMENT.
PUSH THE BLUE BUTTON. GO ENGINE...

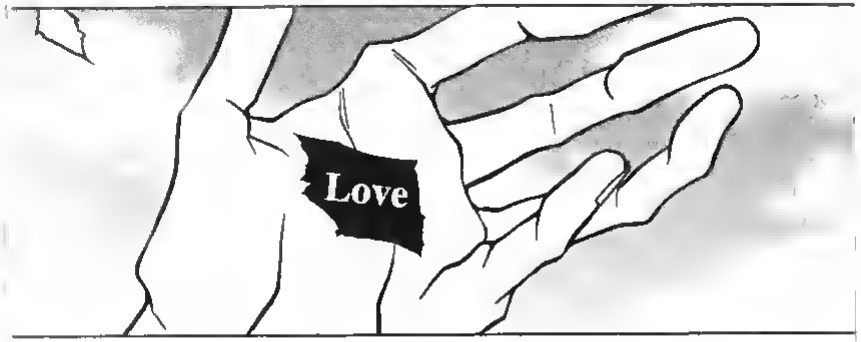
WHAT THE--?!
WAAA


Grudge?
Wife
Abducts
Lover's
Child

DON'T BE RUDE! WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
You didn't even do anything!
SO THIS IS THE ETERNITY YOU WANTED TO CREATE?

HER BEAUTIFUL EYES...
THEY LOOK EXACTLY LIKE YOURS.

SHE LIKES THE FLASHY STUFF. BUT THE LAST THING ON HER LIST IS THE ONLY ONE THAT MATTERS IN THIS BUSINESS.



Embalming 8
Pandora's Box
End

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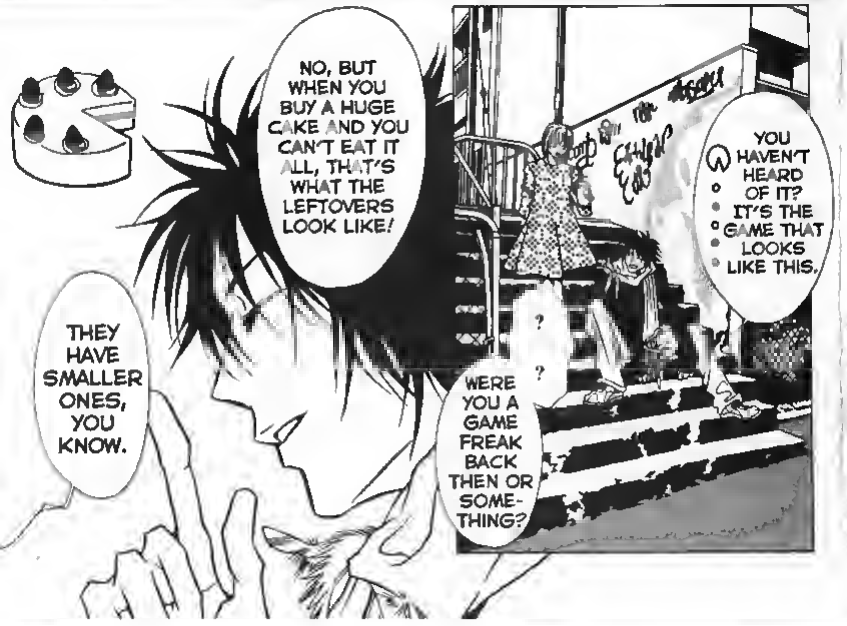
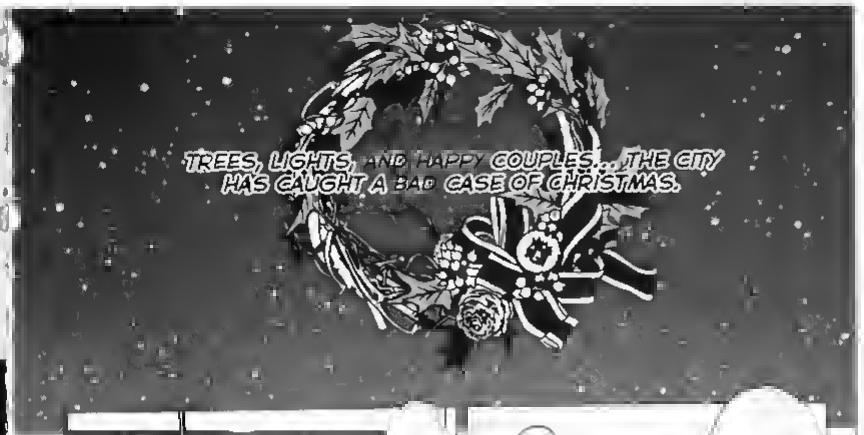
STALE CAKES AND CHEAP CANDY ARE DIFFERENT THAN THIS!
MY CHRISTMAS MEMORIES?
HAVE YOU HEARD OF PAC-MAN?


NO, BUT WHEN YOU BUY A HUGE CAKE AND YOU CAN'T EAT IT ALL, THAT'S WHAT THE LEFTOVERS LOOK LIKE!
THEY HAVE SMALLER ONES, YOU KNOW.
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT? IT'S THE GAME THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS.
WERE YOU A GAME FREAK BACK THEN OR SOMETHING?
?
?

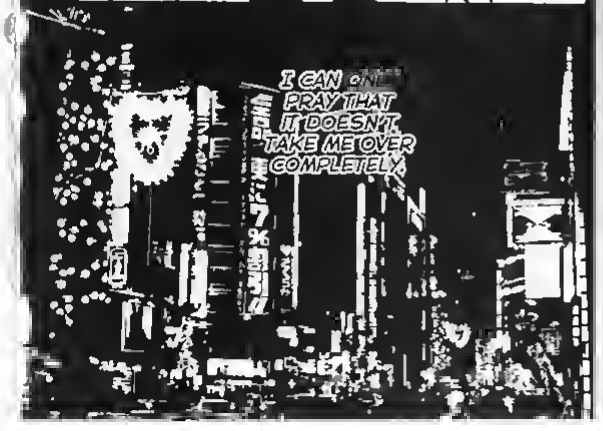

TREES, LIGHTS, AND HAPPY COUPLES... THE CITY HAS CAUGHT A BAD CASE OF CHRISTMAS.

Azuki's baking... FOR ME!
OOH! NOT AGAIN ...
WHY WON'T IT RISE?

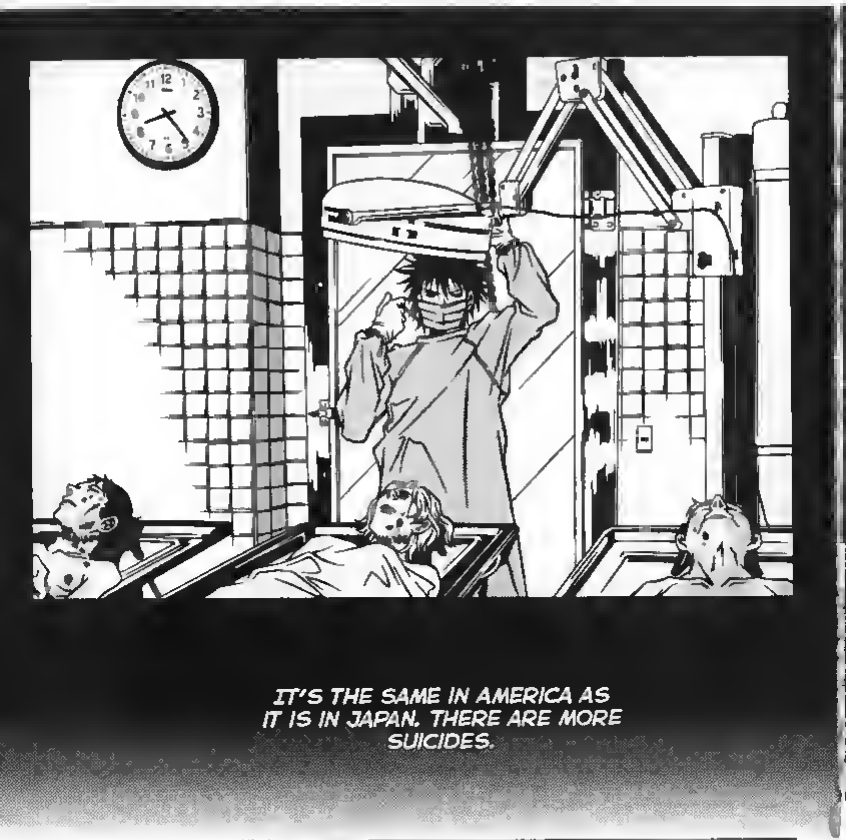
FOR THAT YOU'LL NEED THE BAKING POWDER AND--
GO AWAY.
NOTE: Remember that Azuki's brother works at a confectionary company so he knows his stuff!

BEEP!
I MUST HAVE CAUGHT ONE, TOO.
THIS IS SO NOT LIKE ME.
Pretty soon there'll be green and red bumps all over my body...

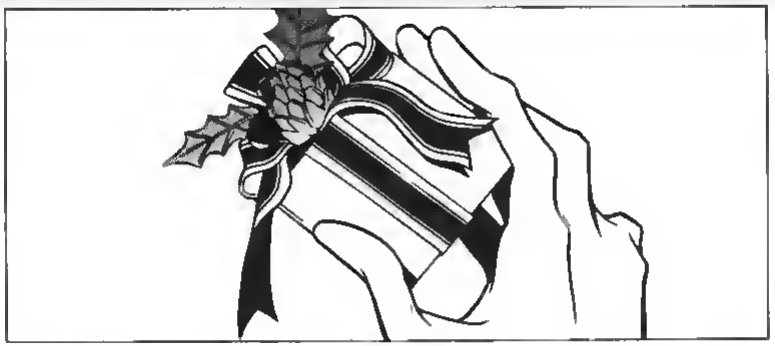
YEAH, I'VE CAUGHT THE HOLIDAY BUG.
THE ONE DAY THE PLAYER DOESN'T BRING SOMEONE HOME IS THE ONE DAY WHEN JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE DOES.
DIVINE RETRIBUTION



IT SEEMS THAT CHRISTMAS IS A VERY BUSY DAY FOR EMBALMERS.



IT'S THE SAME IN AMERICA AS IT IS IN JAPAN. THERE ARE MORE SUICIDES.



LAST YEAR WAS TOUGH...

CAN YOU MAKE IT IN TIME, MAMIYA?
YEAH.
FIXED FIVE GUYS IN ONE NIGHT AT THE MORTUARY UNIVERSITY IN PITTSBURG ONCE.
19 YEARS OLD. MALE. SUICIDAL HANGING.
60 YEARS OLD. MALE. CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING.
32 YEARS OLD. FEMALE. SUICIDAL HANGING.

HALF A DAY MORE...
I'm nervous!
December
25
Thursday

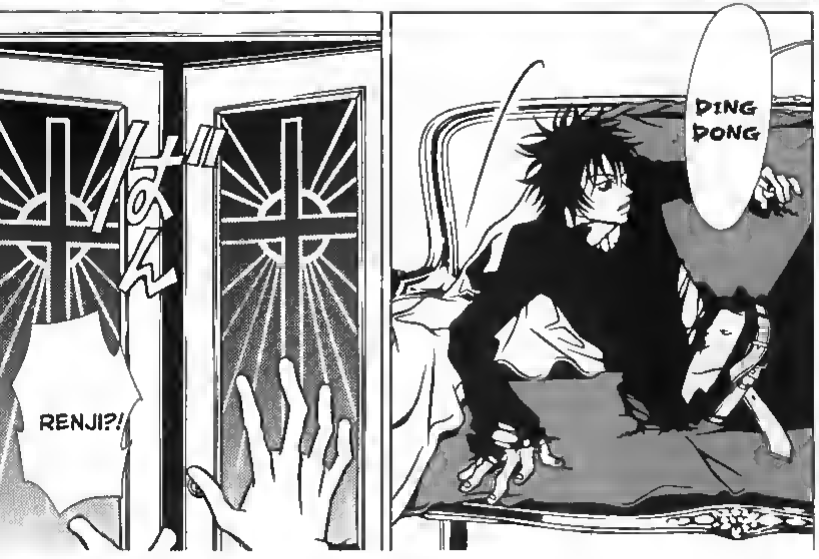
WE HAVE A COLD FRONT MOVING IN FROM THE SOUTH ...

TING
はい
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

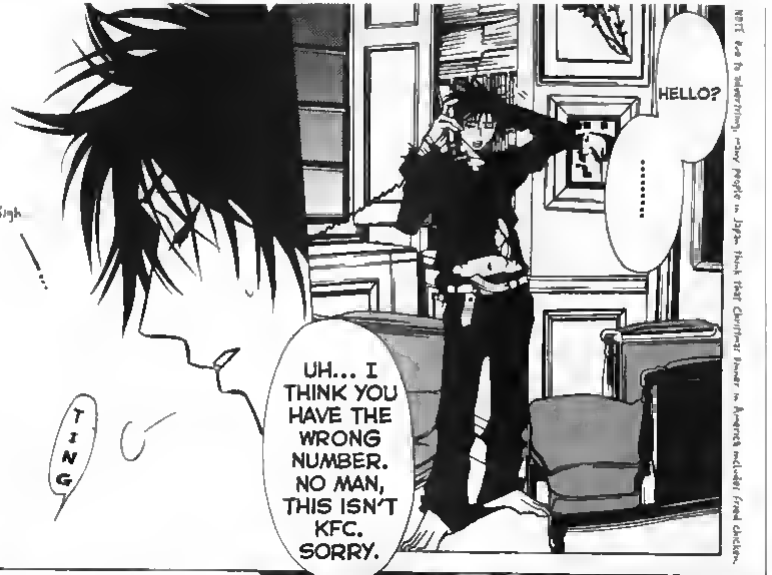
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE IT THIS YEAR?

.....
incorrigible
はい

...LET'S SEE HOW THINGS ARE LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS DAY!
SUCH A SHAME THAT WE DIDN'T GET A WHITE CHRISTMAS EVE YESTERDAY, BUT...
今日の天気



NOTE: Due to advertising, many people in Japan think that Christmas Dinner in America includes fried chicken.



RESTOR-ATION OF CORPSES?
THEN... THIS IS THAT KIND OF INSTITUTION... YOU'RE AN EM... AN EM...
EMBALM-ER.
THE CHURCH WAS RENOVATED A FEW YEARS AGO.
I WONDER ...
...JUST HOW FAR AWAY GOD HAS CAST ME.
I'D PLANNED TO STAND BY HIM FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, AND...
EVEN THE DOCTORS SAY I SHOULD BRACE MYSELF FOR THE WORST.
MY HUSBAND... TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE. HE'S BEEN IN A COMA EVER SINCE.

!
UM...
ISN'T THIS A CHURCH?

OF COURSE, IT IS A SERVICE FOR THE DECEASED, BUT IT IS THE FAMILY WHO ASKS FOR IT.
IF YOU ASKED ME, I'D ANSWER THAT I'M DOING THIS FOR THE FAMILY'S SAKE.
...INTENSE DISGUST.
EMBALMING IS SIMPLY A WAY TO MAKE ONE'S LAST DAYS WITH THE DECEASED BEAUTIFUL.
I WANT TO HELP THOSE LEFT BEHIND TO LIVE AGAIN.
IT'S NOT CLEANING UP AFTER DEATH.

YOU'VE STOOD BY HIM UNTIL NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

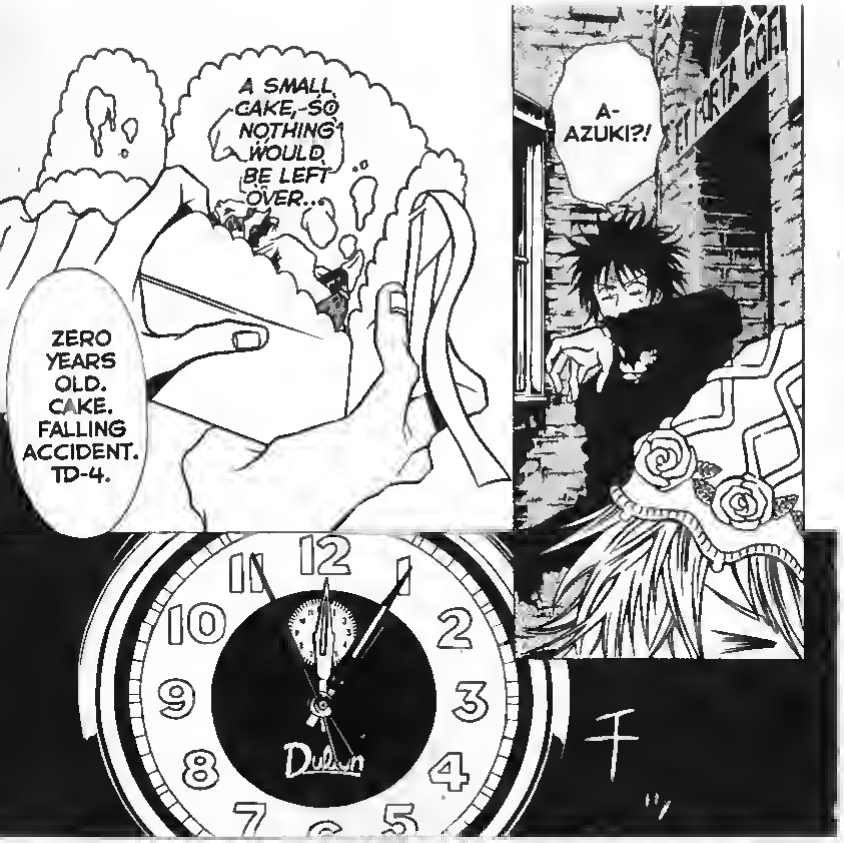
I'M SURE HE'S TRYING HIS BEST TO--
DON'T YOU TRY TO PLACATE ME!

...NOW ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY FOR A MIRACLE.
BUT...
...OF ALL THE PLACES TO END UP! A PLACE WHERE THEY DO THINGS TO CORPSES!

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS!
YOU MAKE MONEY WHEN PEOPLE DIE, DON'T YOU?!

ABSOLUTELY NO REACTION OR...
MOST PEOPLE HAVE ONE OF TWO REACTIONS WHEN EMBALMING IS EXPLAINED TO THEM.

IT'S OKAY. HURRY UP AND GO TO HIM.
I'M SORRY. I SAID A LOT OF HORRIBLE--
I'M GOING TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF, AND TRY TO FIND A LIFE WITH HIM AGAIN.
I HAVE TO GET BACK. THEY SAID HE'S CALLING FOR ME.
TELL HIM THIS FOR ME...
MERRY CHRISTMAS.
THANK YOU, TOO.
HELLO?
WHAT?
HE--?!
RING! RING!
...THEN YOU CAN DO YOUR EMBALMING OR WHATEVER--
ENOUGH ALREADY! IF HE DIES, I'LL KILL MYSELF...
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD AFTER ALL.


A SMALL CAKE, SO NOTHING WOULD BE LEFT OVER...
ZERO YEARS OLD. CAKE. FALLING ACCIDENT. TD-4.
A-AZUKI?!
Dubon
千

UH...

MMPH! WHA--?!
I BET HE'S WORKING, SO I'LL JUST LEAVE IT ON HIS DOORSTEP.
A WOMAN!
女!
HE SAID HE HAD TO WORK...
...AND I BAKED HIM SO MANY CAKES...
ボコ
YOU JERK!

Embalming 9

The Miracle of Nothing Happening

End

I CANNOT GIVE YOU A DEFINITE TIME, BUT MOST ARE CREMATED WITHIN THREE TO TEN DAYS.
OH... OKAY.
.....
IN YOUR FATHER'S CASE, IT SEEMS THERE ARE INJURIES AND JAUNDICE, BUT WE CAN RESTORE HIM SO HE LOOKS LIKE HE DID BEFORE.
I DON'T CARE HOW IT LOOKS ...
...AS LONG AS IT HOLDS UP UNTIL THE FUNERAL.

CHILDREN WISH FOR FREEDOM. THEY REALIZE ITS EVILS WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS.
AND ...
...IF YOU DO THAT EMBALMING THING... UM...
...ABOUT HOW LONG WILL IT LAST? YOU KNOW, THE... CORPSE?

IT'S WEIRD SHE HASN'T BEEN BY IN TWO WEEKS.
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
WELL...
I GUESS...
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE PROMISED ME OR ANYTHING... BUT SHE ALWAYS COMES.

BUT HE IS PRETTY HOT.
THAT GUY... HE'S, LIKE, SO CONCEITED, HUH?
Heh heh
Heh heh...
ARE YOU TAKING BALLET?
THAT STUDIO IS CLOSED.
HUH? NO...
EXCUSE ME.

ガサガサ
RRRRRING!
RRRRRING!
HELLO?
RRING!
WHAT? OH, IT'S YOU.
HEY, PAY ATTENTION. THIS IS WORK.

THIS HOUSE'S GONNA BE A MOUNTAIN OF GARBAGE UNLESS YOU COME CLEAN IT UP, YA KNOW.
WHERE IS IT?!
WHERE'D HE HIDE IT?!
ガラッ
ガーン
DING
49 YEARS OLD. MALE. ACCIDENTAL FALL WHILE DRUNK.
FRACTURES AND... YEAH, I GOT IT.
YES. FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AFTER THE AUTOPSY.
YOU OKAY WITH THIS?
IT'S LIKE I WAS THROWING A DAMN TANTRUM.

THAT WOMAN'S ADDRESS? YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW!
SHE ABANDONED US!
YOU'RE NOT MY FAMILY.
I'LL GO TO HER AS SOON AS I SAVE UP THE MONEY. I'LL FIND OUT WHERE MOM IS AND BE FREE OF THESE SHACKLES.
HEY, IT'S THE POLICE! DID YOU DO SOMETHING?
WHAT?

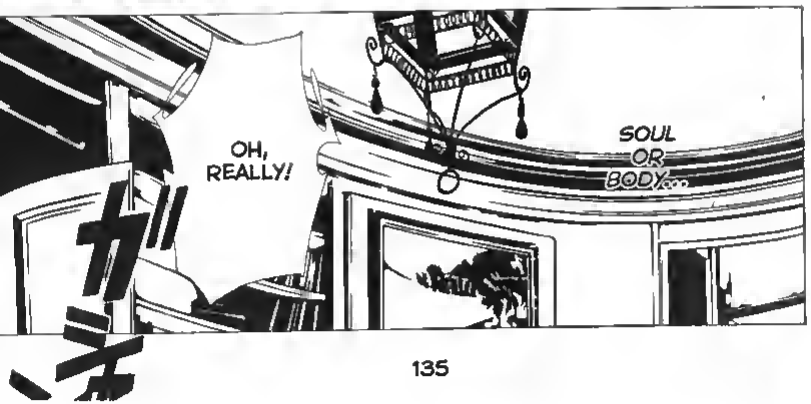
IT'S LIKE A WEIGHT THAT BEARS DOWN ON ME.
SCHOOL ENTRANCE FEES, TUITION... JUST EATIN' UP MY MONEY!
I'M NOT SENDING YOU TO COLLEGE, YA HEAR? YOU WORK FOR YER OWN DAMN MEALS!
SO, PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE YOUR OLD MAN ALL ALONE.
Y-YOU KNOW I'M A LOSER. EVER SINCE YOUR MOM LEFT.
THIS TIME I SWEAR I'LL QUIT DRINKING.

...FREE.
SO IT DOES LOOK THAT BAD.
WHAT'S WITH THIS ROOM?! MUST YOU BE SUCH A GODDAMN SLOB?!

NO... I'M FINE.
I WAS ACTUALLY RELIEVED WHEN I HEARD OF MY FATHER'S DEATH.
SHIT!
CLASH!
AND NOW I'M TRULY...
HA...
HA HA HA... I FOUND IT.

.....

SATURDAY, HUH?
WONDER IF SHE'LL COME OVER TO CLEAN?
2003


OH, REALLY!
SOUL OR BODY...
ガミ

CLICK

AWW!
AGH!
I-I... I NEED A GIRL TONIGHT.

AROUND THIS TIME, IT'LL BE ASAMI OR HARUKA...

WITH FREEDOM COMES GUILT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
OH... NO...
... THANKS.

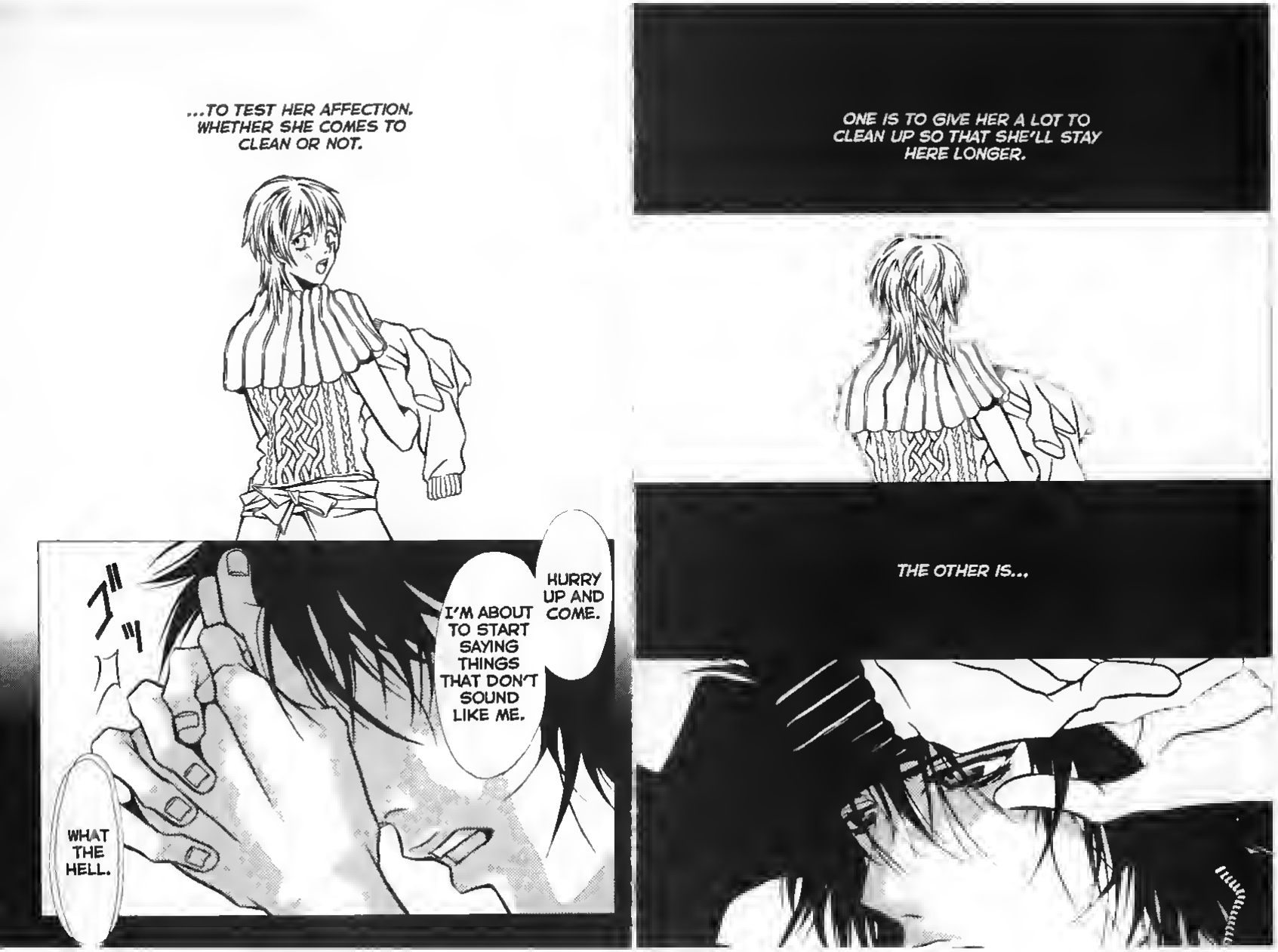
"FREEDOM" PUSHES YOU TO CHOOSE ONE.
I'LL MESS UP THIS ROOM TOO, YA KNOW.
Sigh

"YOU'RE THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE, MOM!"
"ARE YOU HAPPY WITHOUT ME?"
"I HATED YOU AT FIRST, BUT NOW I JUST WANT..."
"WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME?"
...I PROBABLY WON'T SEE YOU AGAIN, BUT...TAKE CARE, OKAY?
WELL...
ALL I HAD LEFT WAS A SMALL ENVELOPE OF MONEY.
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

YOU'VE GROWN, HAVEN'T YOU?
I'M SORRY I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE FOR YOU.
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. I HAVE MY OWN FAMILY NOW.
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE HAPPY, TOO.
WELL, ANYWAY, USE THIS FOR THE FUNERAL.
IT'S THE BEST I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
I'D FINALLY MET MY MOTHER, BUT SHE'D BECOME A STRANGER.

I BET SHE'D LAUGH IF SHE FOUND OUT I WAS REALLY A NEAT FREAK.
CLINK
THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR THE MESS...

SO THIS IS FREEDOM, EH?
HA HA... I WANTED IT SO MUCH.
CLATTLE
CLINK
ALL I GOT WAS THE FREEDOM TO BE LONELY.


...TO TEST HER AFFECTION. WHETHER SHE COMES TO CLEAN OR NOT.
ONE IS TO GIVE HER A LOT TO CLEAN UP SO THAT SHE'LL STAY HERE LONGER.
THE OTHER IS...
HURRY UP AND COME.
I'M ABOUT TO START SAYING THINGS THAT DON'T SOUND LIKE ME.
WHAT THE HELL.

ARE YOU CLOSING ALREADY?
YES.
IT'S GETTING LATE.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL SEE YOU HOME.
I WANT MY FAMILY, PLEASE.
FAMILY, ONCE MORE...
EXCUSE ME?
YOU KNOW, MY MOTHER... I WAS WAITING FOR HER.
BUT SHE DIDN'T COME AFTER ALL.

YOU KNOW, DURING THE CREMATION, I WAS THE ONLY PERSON HERE TO SEE IT...
...BUT DAD HAD A REALLY BEAUTIFUL SMILE.
I FOUND OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT HE COULD SMILE THE DAY HE WAS CREMATED, AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HIS FAMILY.
I'M SO STUPID, AREN'T I? THE FREEDOM I WANTED SO MUCH...
I DIDN'T KNOW IT'D BE THIS LONELY.

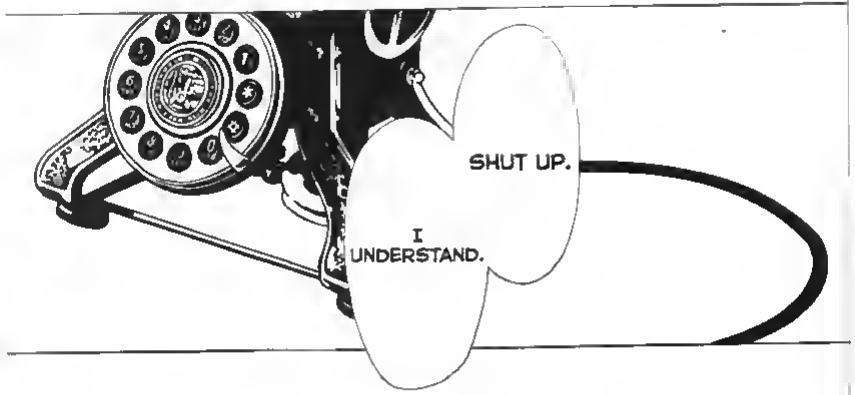
IT WAS MY DREAM TO LIVE WITH MY MOTHER AGAIN.
AFTER ALL, WE'D SUFFERED THE SAME WAY.
I GOT THE EMBALMING DONE SO THE CORPSE WOULD LAST WHILE I WENT TO LOOK FOR HER.
I WANTED HER TO BE AT THE FUNERAL WITH ME.
HEH HEH... I-I DIDN'T WANT HER TO SHELL OUT THE MONEY.
AND THEN, I WANTED HER TO PRAISE ME FOR BEING ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER THE WHOLE FUNERAL BY MYSELF.

.....
CHIRP!
CHIRP!
TWEET!
TWEET!
CAW!

I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT RIDE HOME, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
YES ...
OF COURSE.

YEAH?
MAMIYA HERE.

.....
ZZZ...
RIIIING!
UGH! OKAY, OKAY!
RIIIING!
RIIIIIING!



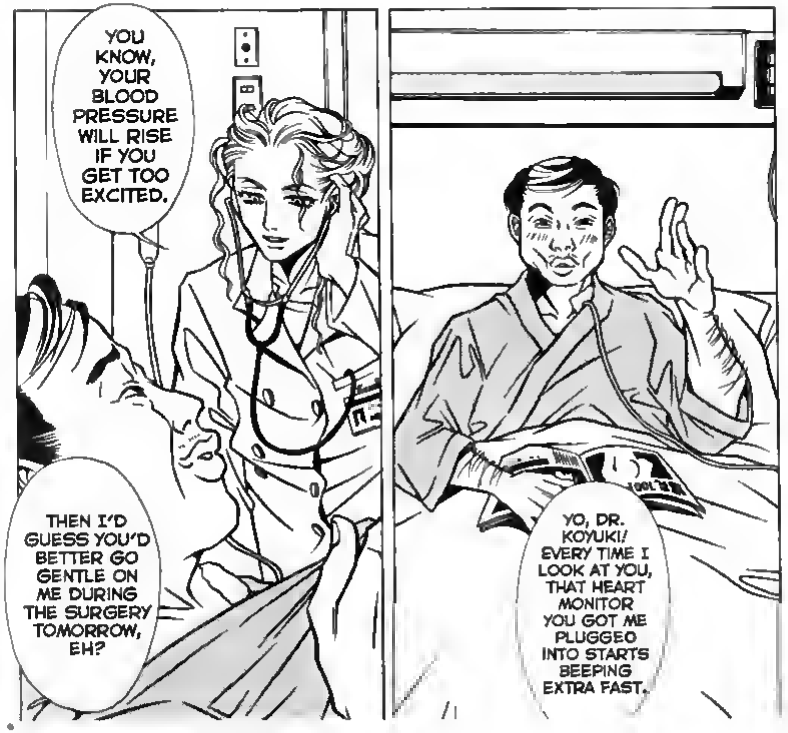
embalming 10
The Freedom of Loneliness
End

WHAT? HUH...?
ADRENALIN IS SECRETED WHEN A PERSON GETS TENSE, WHICH RESTRICTS THE GENERATION OF URINE. YOU'RE FINE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
DON'T PEOPLE HAVE TO PEE SOMETIMES DURING SURGERY?
Ha ha ha!
IT'LL TAKE HOURS, RIGHT?
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T EAT BREAKFAST TOMORROW. NO WATER, EITHER.
WHAT?
IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME. THE WAY YOU'RE ABLE TO PUT THAT GUY BACK IN HIS PLACE.
Heh heh

エンバーミング [embalming]

In America, embalmers work closely with medical professionals.

In comparison, many Japanese doctors do not even know of the existence of embalming.

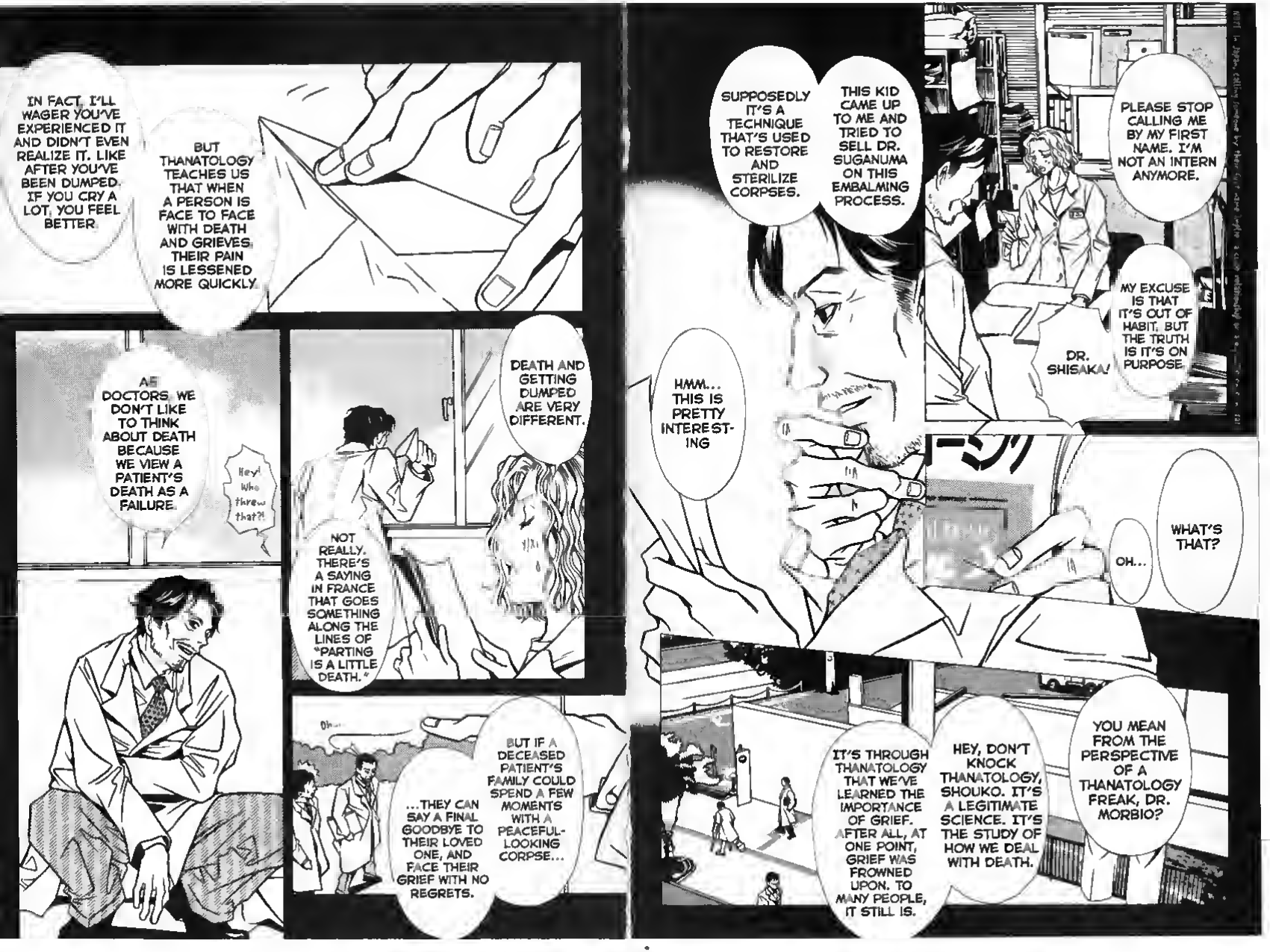

YOU KNOW, YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE WILL RISE IF YOU GET TOO EXCITED.
THEN I'D GUESS YOU'D BETTER GO GENTLE ON ME DURING THE SURGERY TOMORROW, EH?
YO, DR. KOYUKI! EVERY TIME I LOOK AT YOU, THAT HEART MONITOR YOU GOT ME PLUGGED INTO STARTS BEEPING EXTRA FAST.

YOU'RE KIDDING!
I THINK I SAW A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE ON DR. KOYUKI'S DESK.
Eek!
NOT AN INTERN!
Oh no!
WHO?! A DOCTOR? A BUSINESSMAN?
I DON'T KNOW! I JUST GLANCED AT IT!

HE'S JUST SCARED.
HE CAN BE A REAL PROBLEM SOMETIMES/ HE ALWAYS GRABS THE NURSES' BUTTS...
...AND THEN SAYS HE'S SUFFERING FROM "ASS-PHYXIATION" OR SOMETHING LAME LIKE THAT.

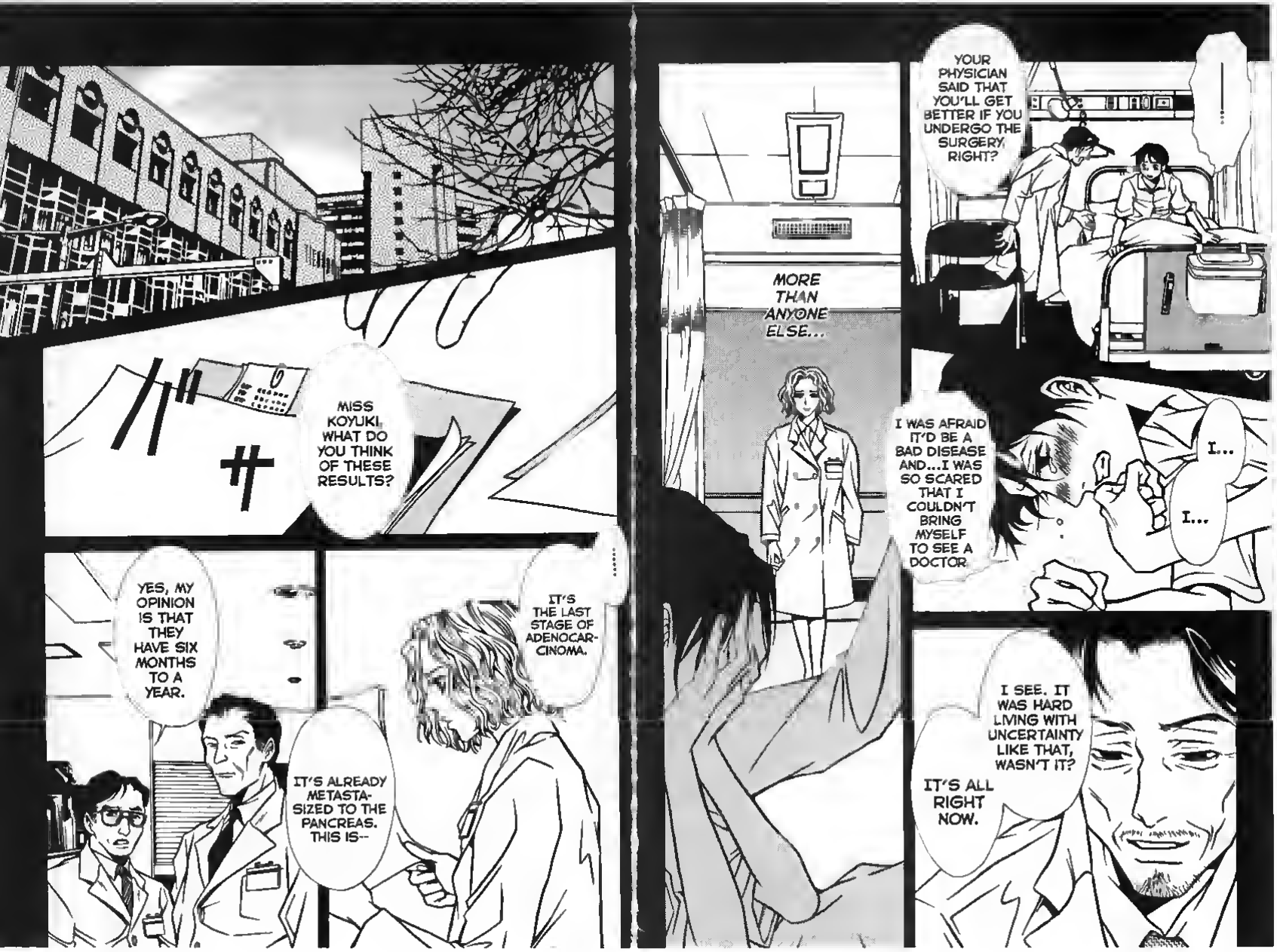
Huh.
DR. KOYUKI IS SO AMAZING.
WE NEED MORE FEMALE DOCTORS, BUT MMM! I WISH SHE WAS A MAN!
Hee hee!
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE IS PRETTY SECRETIVE ABOUT HER PERSONAL LIFE.♥
YOU NEVER KNOW. MAYBE SHE'S INTO GIRLS.
SHE'S WEARING THAT PERFUME FOR SOMEBODY.
You two are such gossips!
IT'S HIS FIRST SURGERY. HE ACTS UP TO TAKE HIS MIND OFF OF HIS WORRIES.
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

GOTTA LIKE HER SPUNK.
GOOD MORNING, SHOUKO.
Heh heh...
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO BREAK YOUR FACE FOR YOU, THEN?
GET LOST! OUR HOSPITAL DOESN'T NEED IT!
BUT IT'S FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE! EMBALMING IS—
IF I SAY WE DON'T NEED IT, WE DON'T NEED IT!
HEY ... IF YOU'RE A DOCTOR HERE, MAYBE I SHOULD GET HOSPITALIZED.
UH!
COULD YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE?


IN FACT, I'LL WAGER YOU'VE EXPERIENCED IT AND DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE IT. LIKE AFTER YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED. IF YOU CRY A LOT, YOU FEEL BETTER.
BUT THANATOLOGY TEACHES US THAT WHEN A PERSON IS FACE TO FACE WITH DEATH AND GRIEVES, THEIR PAIN IS LESSENED MORE QUICKLY.
AS DOCTORS, WE DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT DEATH BECAUSE WE VIEW A PATIENT'S DEATH AS A FAILURE.
Hey! Who threw that?!
DEATH AND GETTING DUMPED ARE VERY DIFFERENT.
NOT REALLY. THERE'S A SAYING IN FRANCE THAT GOES SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF "PARTING IS A LITTLE DEATH."
Oh...
...THEY CAN SAY A FINAL GOODBYE TO THEIR LOVED ONE, AND FACE THEIR GRIEF WITH NO REGRETS.
BUT IF A DECEASED PATIENT'S FAMILY COULD SPEND A FEW MOMENTS WITH A PEACEFUL-LOOKING CORPSE...
SUPPOSEDLY IT'S A TECHNIQUE THAT'S USED TO RESTORE AND STERILIZE CORPSES.
THIS KID CAME UP TO ME AND TRIED TO SELL DR. SUGANUMA ON THIS EMBALMING PROCESS.
HMM... THIS IS PRETTY INTERESTING
PLEASE STOP CALLING ME BY MY FIRST NAME. I'M NOT AN INTERN ANYMORE.
DR. SHISAKA/
MY EXCUSE IS THAT IT'S OUT OF HABIT, BUT THE TRUTH IS IT'S ON PURPOSE.
WHAT'S THAT?
OH...
IT'S THROUGH THANATOLOGY THAT WE'VE LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF GRIEF. AFTER ALL, AT ONE POINT, GRIEF WAS FROWNED UPON. TO MANY PEOPLE, IT STILL IS.
HEY, DON'T KNOCK THANATOLOGY, SHOUKO. IT'S A LEGITIMATE SCIENCE. IT'S THE STUDY OF HOW WE DEAL WITH DEATH.
YOU MEAN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A THANATOLOGY FREAK, DR. MORBIO?

AND WHICH ONE MIGHT YOU BE?
THIS MAN... HE'S AS OLD AS MY FATHER...
...BUT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
I HATE THAT DOCTOR! HE KEEPS ASKING WHY I DIDN'T COME SOONER.
LIKE IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
IT'S TOO LATE ANYWAY, ISN'T IT?!
NO! NO SURGERY!
NO ONE IS BLAMING YOU.
CALM DOWN, MISS!
DOCTOR!

ARE YOU SURPRISED? DR. SUGANUMA ISN'T EXACTLY THE MOST OPEN-MINDED MD AT THIS HOSPITAL...
I WISH I'D GOTTEN A CHANCE TO TALK TO THE YOUNG MAN WHO DROPPED THIS OFF.
SUGANUMA GOT MAD AND CHASED HIM OUT...
Show yourself!
You could have stopped him.
...THOSE WHO REMAIN ON THE FRONT LINES THEIR WHOLE LIVES.
Ha ha ha!
THERE ARE ONLY TWO TYPES OF DOCTORS, YOU KNOW,
PEOPLE WHO SIT DOWN AND WRITE THEIR PAPERS AND...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO TIMID THAT SUGANUMA TAKES AWAY YOUR CHAIRS.


MISS KOYUKI, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE RESULTS?
YES, MY OPINION IS THAT THEY HAVE SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR.
IT'S ALREADY METASTA-SIZED TO THE PANCREAS. THIS IS--
IT'S THE LAST STAGE OF ADENOCAR-CINOMA.
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
YOUR PHYSICIAN SAID THAT YOU'LL GET BETTER IF YOU UNDERGO THE SURGERY, RIGHT?
I WAS AFRAID IT'D BE A BAD DISEASE AND...I WAS SO SCARED THAT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SEE A DOCTOR.
I...
I...
I SEE. IT WAS HARD LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTY LIKE THAT, WASN'T IT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.

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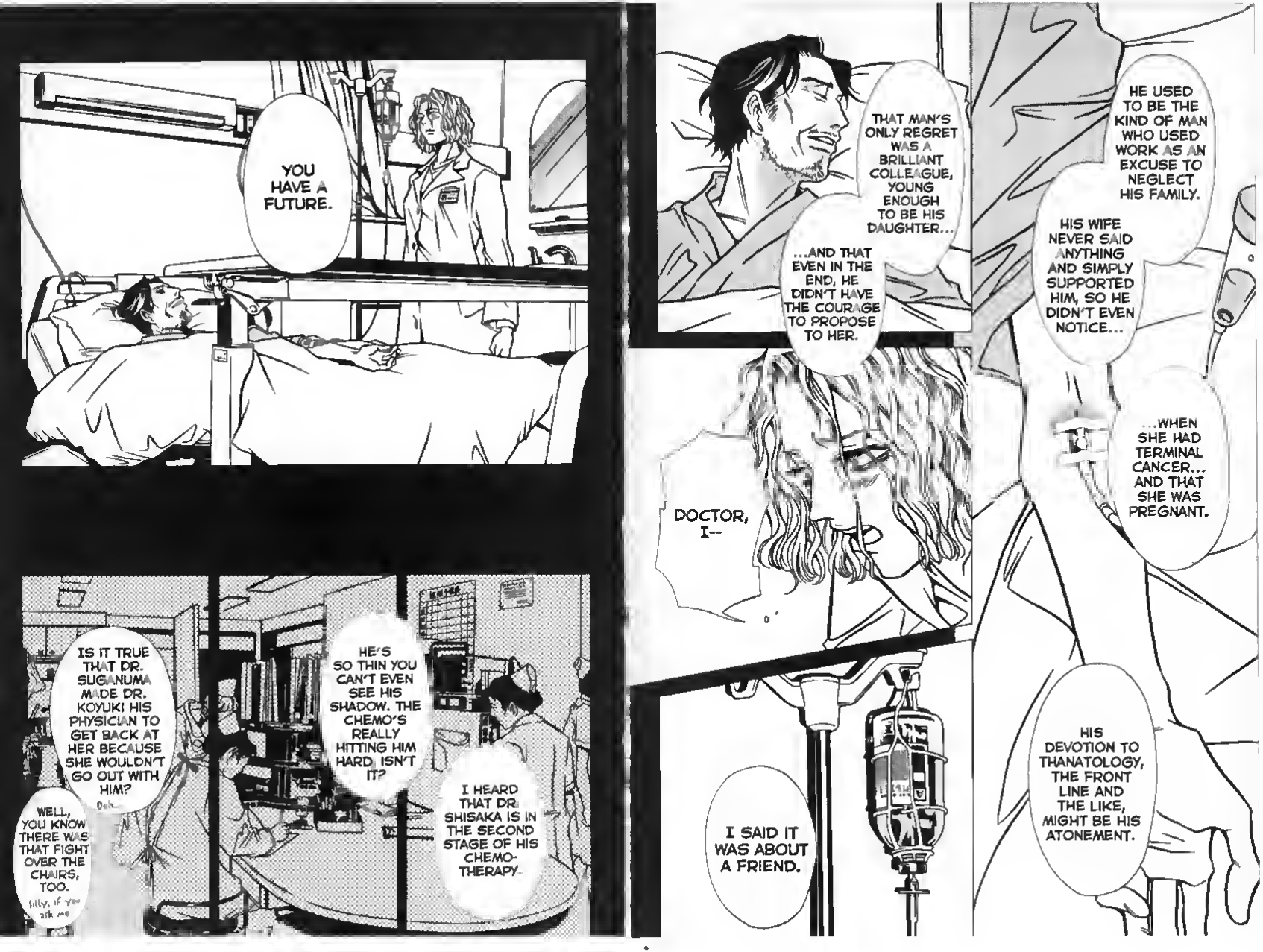
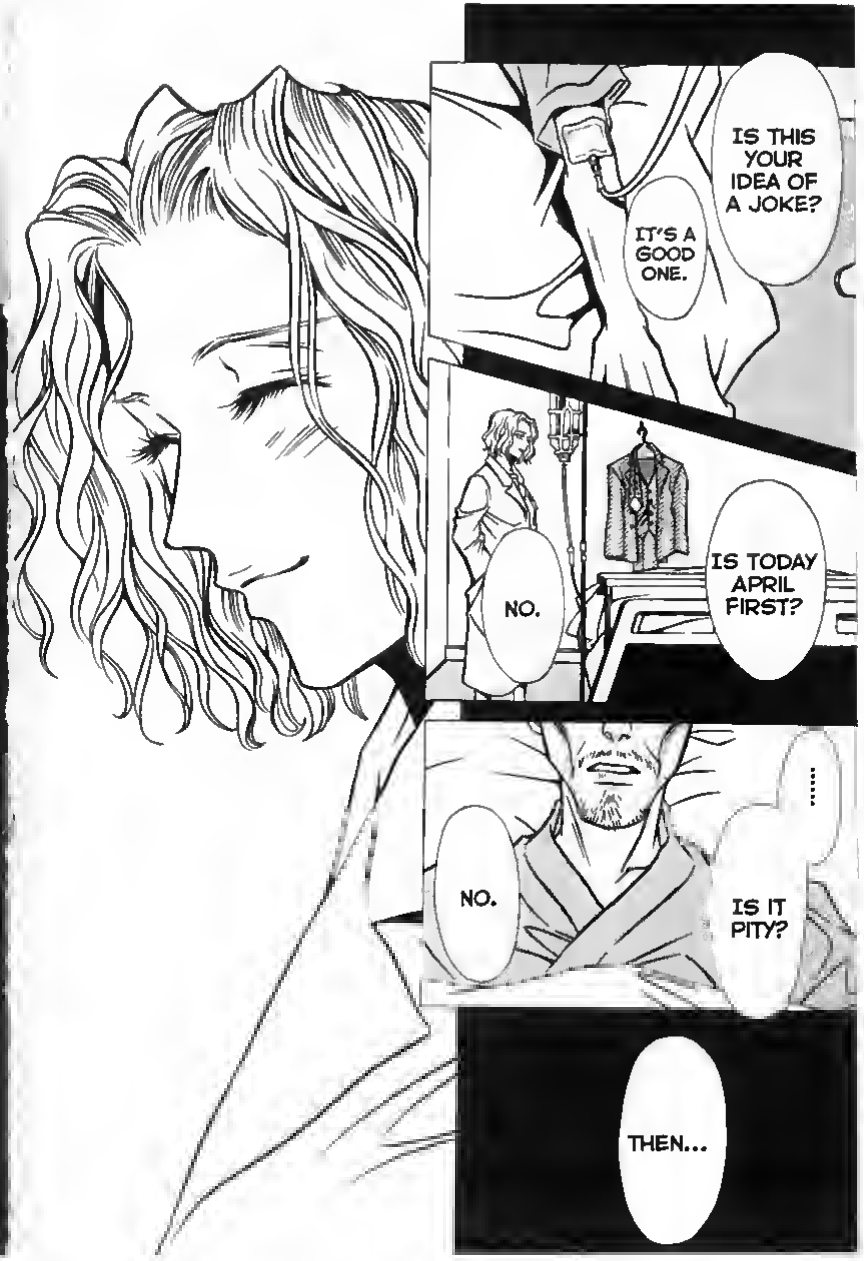
KNOCK KNOCK
HI, SHOUKO!
NO. IT'S DOCTOR SHISAKA.
IS THIS ONE OF OUR PATIENTS?

FIVE.
THE STAGE?
...YES.
OKAY THEN, DOCTOR ...
AND CALL ME "DOCTOR" LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO!
REALLY! A DOCTOR NEGLECTING HIS OWN HEALTH!
...I...
...HAVE CARCINOMA, DON'T I?
DOCTOR!
THIS IS ABOUT A FRIEND OF MINE...
...WERE THE ONE TO TELL ME.
AND OF COURSE THEY HAD TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU...


YOU HAVE A FUTURE.
IS IT TRUE THAT DR. SUGANUMA MADE DR. KOYUKI HIS PHYSICIAN TO GET BACK AT HER BECAUSE SHE WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH HIM?
Ooh...
WELL, YOU KNOW THERE WAS THAT FIGHT OVER THE CHAIRS, TOO.
Silly, if you ask me
HE'S SO THIN YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE HIS SHADOW. THE CHEMO'S REALLY HITTING HIM HARD, ISN'T IT?
I HEARD THAT DR. SHISAKA IS IN THE SECOND STAGE OF HIS CHEMO-THERAPY.
THAT MAN'S ONLY REGRET WAS A BRILLIANT COLLEAGUE, YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE HIS DAUGHTER...
...AND THAT EVEN IN THE END, HE DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO PROPOSE TO HER.
DOCTOR, I--
I SAID IT WAS ABOUT A FRIEND.
HE USED TO BE THE KIND OF MAN WHO USED WORK AS AN EXCUSE TO NEGLECT HIS FAMILY.
HIS WIFE NEVER SAID ANYTHING AND SIMPLY SUPPORTED HIM, SO HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE...
...WHEN SHE HAD TERMINAL CANCER... AND THAT SHE WAS PREGNANT.
HIS DEVOTION TO THANATOLOGY, THE FRONT LINE AND THE LIKE, MIGHT BE HIS ATONEMENT.

I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY IF YOU CAN STILL JOKE LIKE THAT.
HERE, PLEASE FILL THIS OUT.
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN? A SURGICAL CONSENT FORM OR SOMETH--
NOTE: The below document is a Japanese marriage certificate.
DOCTOR, MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
YES.
EXCUSE ME.
I FEEL BAD FOR DR. KOYUKI.
IT BOTHERS ME THAT I CAN'T WEAR A NECKTIE.
I FEEL SO UNDIGNI-FIED.
I FEEL A LITTLE LESS NAUSEOUS TODAY.
I'M GLAD. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT BOTHERS YOU?

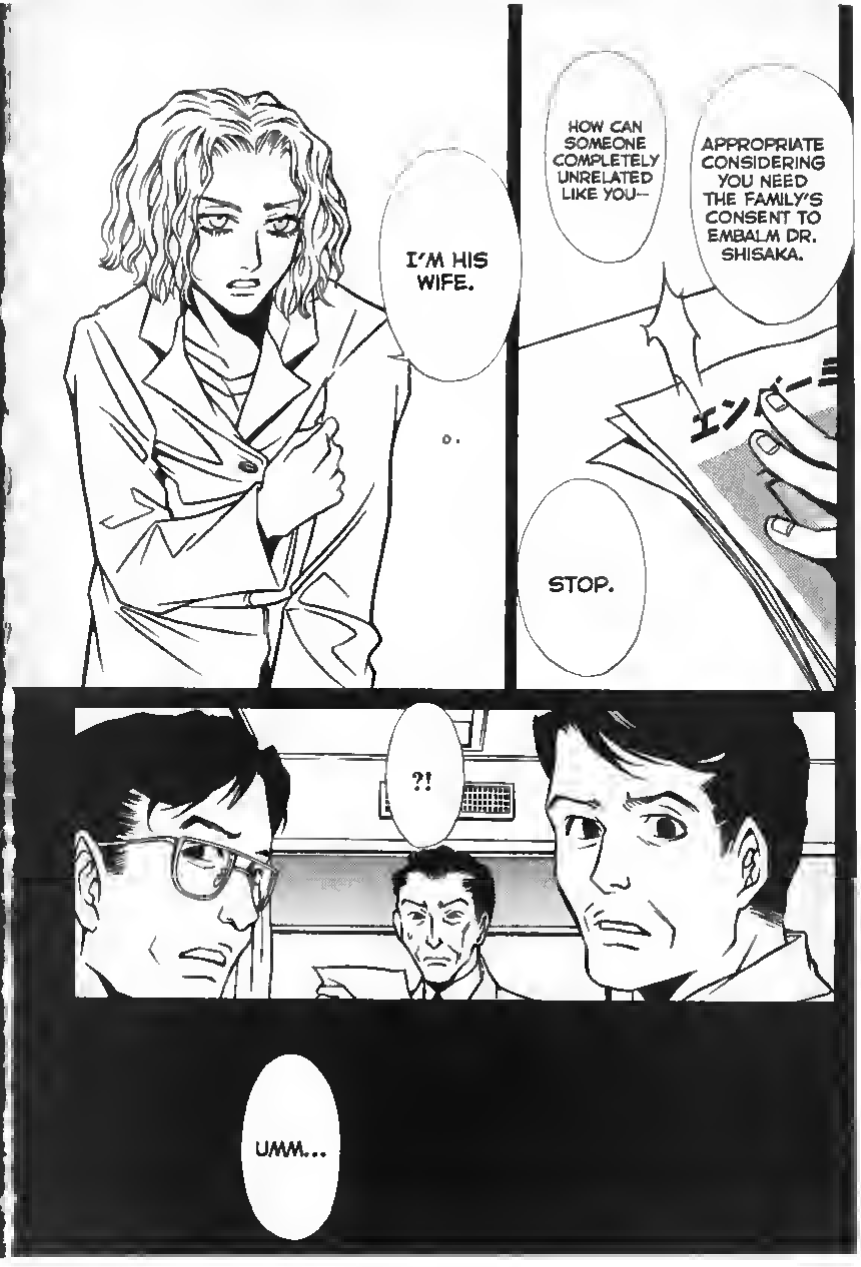
...MISS SHOUKO...
...IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I CRY?
... IT'LL BE JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT ...
YES.

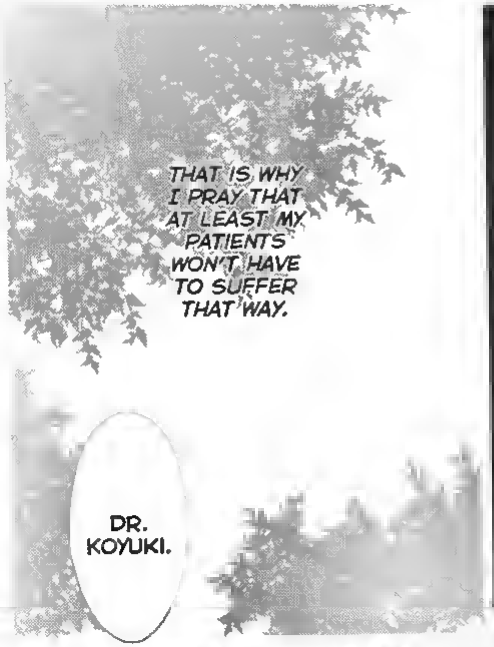

IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE?
IT'S A GOOD ONE.
IS TODAY APRIL FIRST?
NO.
.....
IS IT PITY?
NO.
THEN...

THIS IS A MAN WHO DIED AN ADMIRABLE DEATH WHILE FIGHTING HIS ILLNESS.
YOU SHOULD ALLOW HIM TO DIE WITH DIGNITY.
EMBALM-ING?
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER-ING THAT.
WOULD YOU THINK THAT...
...EVEN IF IT WAS A MEMBER OF YOUR OWN FAMILY?

"WE CAN MAIL THIS IN, RIGHT? WE DON'T NEED TO GO IN PERSON?"
ONE MONTH LATER, THE DOCTOR PASSED AWAY.

THIS ...
DR. SHISAKA HAO IT UNDER HIS PILLOW ...
HE SAID IT WAS FOR GOOD LUCK.
婚姻届


I'M HIS WIFE.
HOW CAN SOMEONE COMPLETELY UNRELATED LIKE YOU--
APPROPRIATE CONSIDERING YOU NEED THE FAMILY'S CONSENT TO EMBALM DR. SHISAKA.
STOP.
?!
UMM...



I COULDN'T HAVE HIM EMBALMED.

HMM?
WHAT'S THAT? A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE?!
HIS LIFE ENDED BEFORE MINE...

KNOCK KNOCK
YES?

YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
THANK YOU, DOCTOR!
つおおおん

WELL, HELLO TO YOU, TOO.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE, SHINJYUROU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

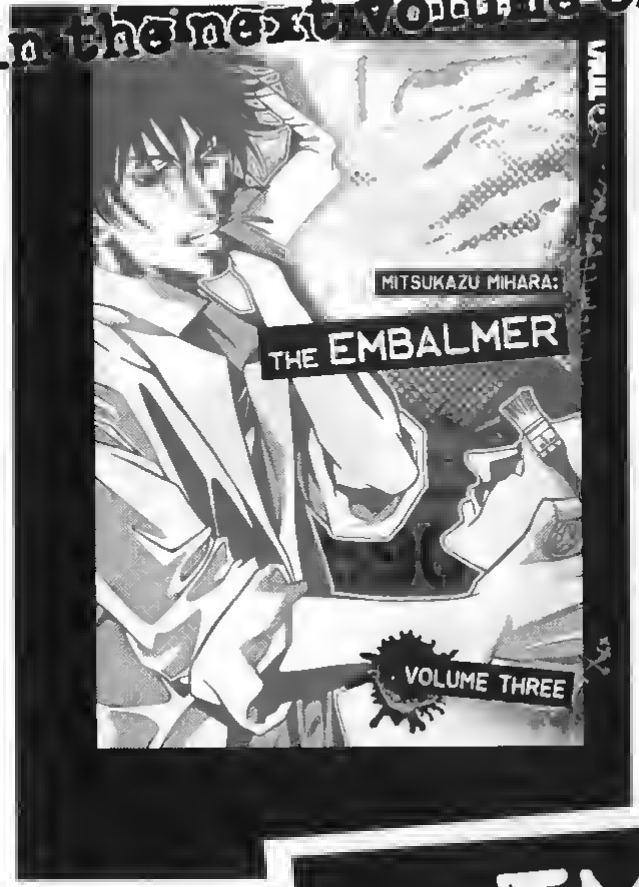
YOU NEVER CHANGE, DO YOU?
IN A PHYSICAL SENSE, I WANT JUST THE TWO OF US ALONE, IF POSSIBLE.

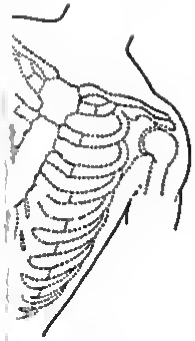
...BUT I WILL FOLLOW AFTER, LOVING HIM ALL THE WAY.

IT'S ONE FOR HEAVEN.

Embalming 11
Match Made in Heaven
End

In the next volume of...





Embalming is a service performed after death, but it is done to celebrate and commemorate life. After all, it is often said that to truly understand someone, you must understand what sort of life he led.

We've learned much about Shinjyuron Maniya, but he remains an enigma—an intriguing puzzle with several key pieces missing. In Volume 3 of The Embalmer, we begin laying those pieces in place. We delve deep into Shinjyurou's past, and begin to discover why he chose to follow in his father's footsteps. We travel with him to America and witness some of his friendships in their infancy. It is the story of a life—Shinjyurou's life. In hearing it, we will learn about the embalmer, and perhaps more importantly, begin to understand him.

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For Shinjyurou Mamiya—an embalmer in a nation where men of his profession are viewed as outcasts—memory has always been like a prison. He reminisces about his first love and how that experience has locked him into a holding pattern in his current place in life. He encounters the lonely, the forgotten, and those who desperately hold onto their last shred of humanity. But his dealing with death will ultimately lead him to the true freedom that life offers...

"This book will really tug at your heartstrings, but it also might become a treasured part of your bookshelf."

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